



**UNITED NATIONS
CLIMATE CHANGE**

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2021**



United Nations
Climate Change

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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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MESSAGE FROM PATRICIA ESPINOSA

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PATRICIA ESPINOSA
UNFCCC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Just as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact our health and our economies in 2021, the climate change crisis intensified. Last year saw the escalation of extreme weather events across the globe, from hurricanes and cyclones to flooding and wildfires, with devastating consequences. 2021 was also one of the seven hottest years on record, with record-shattering temperatures in different regions of the world.

The estimated losses from natural disasters in 2021 amounted to more than \$280 billion globally, 70 billion more than in 2020 and \$114 billion higher than in 2019. The true costs of climate change are still hidden, from threats to food security as a result of drought to biodiversity loss from the destruction of nature. The international community must move quickly to secure a net-zero, climate-resilient future, for the sake of everyone on Earth.

The window of opportunity to limit climate impacts to manageable levels is rapidly closing. On the important issue of finance, governments have yet to fulfil their commitments to mobilize \$100 billion in support to developing nations. The world needs to move quickly and decisively away from its current dependence on fossil fuels. The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has given a stark warning on the severity of climate change, with scientists saying that it's 'now or never' to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

With the implementation of commitments outlined in Nationally Determined Contributions announced prior to COP 26, global average temperature rise would exceed 3°C this century, according to the IPCC. To stand a chance of achieving the 1.5°C goal, greenhouse gas emissions must be slashed by around half within just a decade. Countries must develop

sufficiently ambitious climate plans to allow this, and developing countries need the required finance, technology and capacity building.

Whilst global levels of ambition to tackle climate change remain inadequate, as outlined in national plans, it is encouraging that international efforts to address climate change did make good progress throughout the year. The 2021 May-June Climate Change Sessions were the first time all Parties came together since COP 25 in Madrid, Spain, in 2019. These were the first formal meetings of the subsidiary bodies to be held virtually and, despite significant challenges created by the format, all Parties engaged constructively. Proceedings at COP 26 were able to build on the hard and successful work carried out during the year, and to move the process forward.

The response to climate change is built upon the foundations of multilateralism. Working closely together to confront shared threats and seize common opportunities is the only way to overcome a truly global challenge. This requires firm commitment, clear rules and steadfast trust in the process, and decisions at COP 26 also enhanced this. Governments came to Glasgow determined to reach consensus and left with clarity on the work needed to reach the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

A brief overview of the session's main outcomes confirms that significant progress was achieved. After six years of arduous negotiations, the Paris Agreement rulebook was completed, paving the way for the effective operation of carbon credit trading, a robust carbon market and a framework for non-market-based approaches. Governments also recognized that more abundant, accessible and predictable finance for adaptation is needed. The Glasgow – Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal for adaptation agreed at COP 26 will help provide this support. At the same time, extreme

climatic events are already causing loss and damage and the Glasgow Dialogue was established to discuss arrangements for funding activities to avert, minimize and address loss and damage. New rules for transparency under the Paris Agreement were also agreed, enhancing accountability for implementation and the flow of support for climate action. And for the first time, an outcome of the COP - the Glasgow Climate Pact - mentioned phasing down of unabated coal power, along with the phasing out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

Glasgow marked the conclusion of a critical stage in global efforts against climate change, in which I have had the honour of serving as Executive Secretary to the UNFCCC. After protracted and often difficult negotiations, overcoming many obstacles and challenges, the intergovernmental process has agreed on the rules and the tools necessary for ambitious and effective climate action under the Paris Agreement. This year, therefore, building on the progress achieved at COP 26, the international community is entering a new and decisive phase that can be summarized in a single word, implementation.

There can be no easing of urgency on the road to COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt, in November. Responsibility rests with national governments with respect to implementation of the Paris Agreement and nations are both reliant on and accountable to each other. The UN Climate Change secretariat is committed to playing an active role promoting ambitious climate action in mitigation, adaptation and finance, providing technical assistance and facilitating both transparency and accountability. Governments, businesses and civil society organizations must all work closely together, with the support of citizens and communities throughout the world, and step up collective ambition to address the most significant threat to our collective future and ensure a swift transition to a greener, safer and more stable world for all.

CHAPTER 1



WE ARE UNCLIMATE CHANGE

© PHOTO BY MICHAEL BLOCK/PEXELS



The UNFCCC secretariat is the United Nations entity supporting the global response to climate change as enshrined in Article 2 of the Convention¹ and of the Paris Agreement.

The secretariat, established in 1992, provides wide-ranging support to deliver on the objectives set out in the Paris Agreement (see box 1) and those of the Kyoto Protocol, also contributing to progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action. The secretariat in 2021 consisted of 383 staff members from over 100 countries under the leadership of Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa. Every year, it supports the intergovernmental negotiations that enable

countries to implement the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement and to undertake ambitious climate action. It also manages and reviews data and information needed to ensure transparency during implementation and enhances engagement between all stakeholders to bring them the knowledge, technologies and finance, needed for an effective execution of their climate strategies. The secretariat provides legal advice on the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, as well as on its operations, management and administration, including the finalization and conclusion of legal instruments and partnerships agreements.

1 To understand the Convention, see a comprehensive description here: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-convention/what-is-the-United-Nations-Framework-Convention-on-Climate-Change>

BOX 1

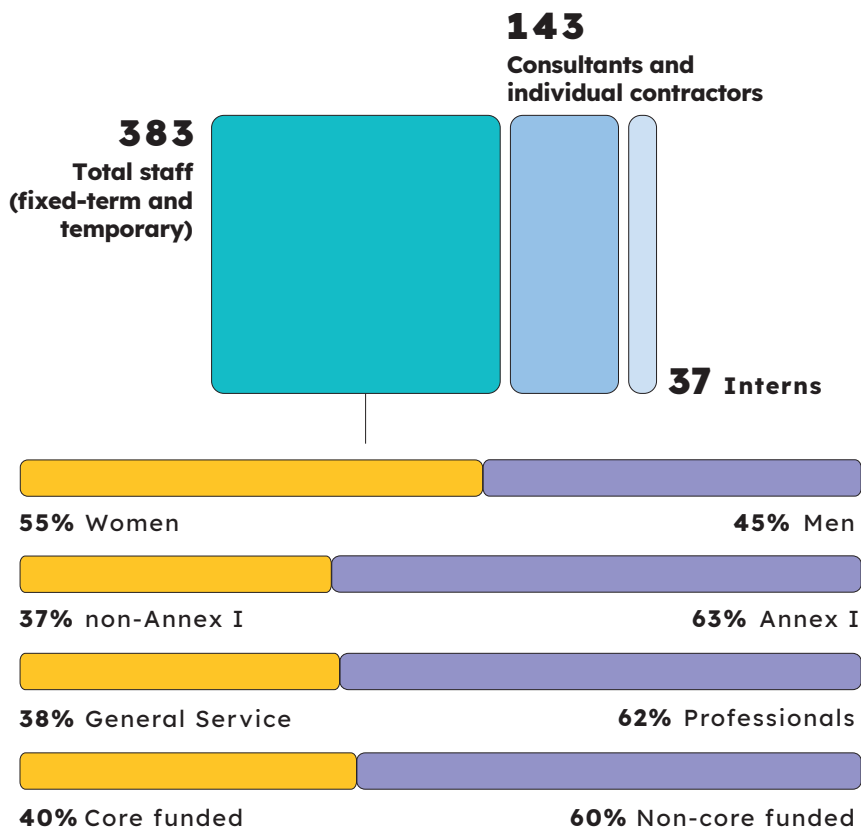
The objective of the Convention, as set out in its Article 2, is to stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

Article 2 of the Paris Agreement, enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by:

- Holding the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
- Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and
- Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

The Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.

FIGURE 1



A hand holding a smartphone in front of a laptop screen displaying a web page with technical content. The laptop screen shows a date 'Thursday, February 28th' and a search bar. The text on the screen includes 'Just a lil' attribution', 'numbers how much money Proof is earning our customers', 'omers. All of 'em.', '7:32 PM', 'apture on bonuses', 'ruses', 'particular customer about \$400/month after expenses even given that negative campaign.', 'ation, we had ^ working early this morning, but it wasn't performant enough. So in one day, we ripped it out of', 'ation without holding up API calls. It is now just as performant as the original call to get all campaigns', 'api-campaigns' and rewrote it in the 'standard', 'Sacramento Kings (2 MB)', 'is DELIGHTFUL!', 'guys'.

RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES OF THE PANDEMIC

Building on the flexible, agile and service-oriented structure established in 2020, the secretariat continued to respond to the challenges of operating during the COVID-19 pandemic – facilitating both remote and in-person working. The secretariat also continued using various technologies to support staff working from home and it successfully organized 512 fully virtual meetings in 2021, assisting the May–June 2021 sessions of the subsidiary bodies, climate weeks and Conference of Parties (COP) 26 held in Glasgow in November.² COP 26 was an in-person conference with a robust virtual component. The Digital Platform for Climate Change Events used during COP 26 enabled the secretariat to ensure the active participation of delegates in self-isolation in Glasgow.

The secretariat will continue to use the lessons learned on remote working to put in place solutions that will enhance the Digital Platform, to advance the work programme of the secretariat, and further promote the inclusive participation and continuous collaboration of Parties and non-Party stakeholders.

The need for the secretariat to work remotely posed some challenges, such as issues with Internet connectivity and competing priorities for experts under the UNFCCC reporting and review process. The secretariat responded by updating supporting tools, which helped to enhance the efficiency of the virtual UNFCCC process. The range of communication modes used was expanded to include webinars, regular conference calls and campaigns.



© PHOTO BY JULIA KHALIMOVA/PEXELS

² The United Nations Climate Conference in Glasgow also served as CMP 16, CMA 3 and the fifty-second to fifty-fifth sessions of the subsidiary bodies.

The virtual mode of interaction also brought some benefits in terms of a larger audience, enhanced participation and increased frequency of interactions. In addition, some counterparts who would normally not be able to participate owing to frequent travel were more available.

For activities that involved complex political issues, for example climate finance, face-to-face interactions became crucial to ensuring the successful conclusion of the work. In such cases, the secretariat convened physical meetings guided by robust health and safety precautions.

For the Glasgow Conference, the secretariat strived with the United Kingdom, as the host country, the United Nations Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the United Nations Department of Safety and Security and the World Health Organization, to overcome pandemic-related challenges and organize a safe, inclusive and productive conference. The United Kingdom Government conducted a COVID-19 vaccination programme, offering vaccinations to delegates who otherwise would not have had access to them. The secretariat supported the vaccination programme in close collaboration with the United Nations Department of Operational Support. In addition, the secretariat

created a self-isolation fund to support eligible Party delegates under the Trust Fund for Participation in the UNFCCC Process and accredited observer representatives, including civil society and media from developing and least developed countries who needed to self-isolate. Approximately USD 2.5 million was raised for the fund from Finland, the IKEA Foundation, Nature Conservancy and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

Despite the advancements in vaccinations and treatments, the pandemic continued to have an impact on the work of the secretariat and on the climate change process in general. The pandemic imposed additional challenges to the capacity of Parties to implement and enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), but international assistance was reinforced in 31 developing countries through the NDC Partnership Economic Advisory Initiative, which supported governments in preparing climate-compatible recovery packages. The pandemic also directly affected the preparation and submission of NDCs and long-term low emissions development strategy (LT-LEDS). Nevertheless, by the end of 2021, 131 new or updated NDCs were communicated by 158 Parties, and 60 Parties had submitted 50 LT-LEDS³.

³ The European Union and its 27 member States communicated a joint NDC in accordance with Article 4, paras. 16–18, of the Paris Agreement, which for that report was counted as one NDC representing 28 Parties. The European Union and its 27 member States also communicated a joint LT-LEDS that counted as one LT-LEDS representing 28 Parties. In addition, 17 member States communicated their own LT-LEDS separately.

C H A P T E R 3

2021 IN REVIEW

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The urgent need for all countries to take climate action was reinforced in the contribution of Working Group I to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report⁴ (see box 2).

Scientists and negotiators came together at the thirteenth meeting of the research dialogue in June, the Earth Information Day and the special event on the contribution of Working Group I to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report at COP 26, and the structured expert dialogue in June and at COP 26 to discuss the

latest science and its relevance to national and international policy. The outcomes of the Glasgow Conference were anchored in the scientific context, emphasizing the importance of the contribution of the IPCC to the UNFCCC process.

Responding to the urgency expressed in the science and in support of the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement, throughout 2021 the secretariat supported Parties to increase climate ambition, strengthen implementation and ensure accountability.

BOX 2

Findings from the contribution of Working Group I to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report included:

- Recent changes in the climate are widespread, rapid and intensifying, and unprecedented for thousands of years;
- Unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in GHG emissions, the goal to limit warming to 1.5 °C will be beyond reach;
- Human activities are indisputably causing climate change, which is making extreme climate events, including heatwaves, heavy rainfall and droughts, more frequent and severe;
- Climate change is already affecting every region on Earth, in multiple ways, and the changes will increase with further warming;
- There is no going back from some changes in the climate system, such as sea level rise; however, some changes could be slowed and others could be stopped by limiting warming;
- Strong, rapid and sustained reductions in carbon dioxide, methane and other GHGs are necessary to limit global warming.

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⁴ IPCC. 2021. Summary for Policymakers. In: V Masson-Delmotte, P Zhai, A Pirani, et al. (eds.). *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press. Available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/#SPM>.



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AMBITION

ENABLING AMBITION

Raising ambition globally requires a shared commitment from all countries to increase ambition, as well as the instruments in place to turn that ambition into reality. In the lead-up to COP 26, the secretariat facilitated and informed work undertaken formally and informally by the Presidencies of COP 25 and 26, the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, delegates and Party representatives. Chile, as the COP 25 Presidency, and the United Kingdom as the incoming COP 26 Presidency, held informal consultations throughout 2021 on the general expectations for, and specific issues critical to, the success of COP 26, including on raising ambition, adaptation, market mechanisms and finance.

The May–June 2021 sessions of the subsidiary bodies, the first such sessions to be held virtually, represented the first time that all Parties came together since COP 25 in 2019. The sessions took place over a three-week period, and Party representatives engaged constructively across all time zones to address the agenda items and advance technical work despite the significant challenges that the virtual format posed for many, especially in developing countries. The progress achieved was captured in informal notes that served as the basis for the successful outcomes of COP 26. The secretariat’s work facilitating and supporting these intergovernmental processes and negotiations contributed to a successful outcome at COP 26 in important areas:

Ambition on greenhouse gas mitigation. The persistent gap between commitments to reduce emissions and the levels needed to limit the rise in the average temperature to 1.5 °C was clearly identified and Parties collectively agreed to work to reduce that gap. For the first time, Parties are being called upon to phase down unabated coal power and phase out inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels. A work programme on mitigation ambition and implementation and a mandate for an annual high-level ministerial round table on ambition were also agreed.

The improved Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for enhancing ambition in 2021–2025⁵ was presented and welcomed at COP 26. It defines priority areas to focus the work of the Partnership, including regionalization, strengthening collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, and enhancing the credibility of the climate-related commitments of the latter.

Also at COP 26, Parties agreed on rules regarding international carbon markets as implemented under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. These rules include a review and accounting framework under Article 6, paragraph 2, a more responsive and modern mechanism under Article 6, paragraph 4 (human rights, indigenous rights, grievance process), and a more nuanced and refined framework for non-market approaches. Such agreement on these rules is a step forward in ensuring the effectiveness of carbon markets and paves the way for more private

sector involvement. In addition, many existing activities under the clean development mechanism can be transitioned to the new mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement under the rules adopted in Glasgow.

Ambition on adaptation and resilience. Parties also urged a doubling of finance for adaptation and established the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation.⁶ The secretariat supported the Adaptation Committee in preparing a technical paper on the global goal on adaptation, which provided a solid basis for the negotiations that led to the establishment of this work programme.

Averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage requires multidisciplinary solutions and financial resources. Under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, further resources and expertise were mobilized to catalyse support for developing countries to address loss and damage. Acknowledging that climate change is already adversely affecting people, CMA 3 decided on the functions of the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change,⁷ including the provision of relevant technical assistance for vulnerable countries. CMA 3 also decided to establish the Glasgow Dialogue to discuss the arrangements for the funding of activities for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage.

⁵ Under the leadership of the high-level champions, the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action supports implementation of the Paris Agreement by enabling collaboration between governments and non-Party stakeholders.

⁶ See decision 7/CMA.3.

⁷ The Santiago network is the newest support arrangement under the Warsaw International Mechanism.

Ambition on finance. Finance was extensively discussed throughout the conference, and consensus was reached on the need to continue increasing support to developing countries. Developed country Parties reaffirmed their duty to fulfil the pledge of providing USD 100 billion annually by 2023 at the latest, and Parties agreed on a way forward in

relation to the post-2025 climate finance goal. In the lead-up to COP 26, the secretariat facilitated the crucial outreach and consultations undertaken by the COP 25 and 26 Presidencies to prepare Parties for the negotiations on climate finance. All key negotiating groups engaged actively by sharing their priorities and expectations for COP 26.



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DATA AND INFORMATION FOR AMBITION

By providing transparency and accountability on actions under way, the secretariat helps build confidence to increase ambition and provides inspiration for wider action.

- The *NDC Synthesis Report* synthesized information from the latest NDCs of all Parties to the Paris Agreement, including new or updated NDCs. The report presents key findings from the synthesis on mitigation targets, domestic mitigation measures and voluntary cooperation. Information from NDCs related to adaptation and means of implementation was also included;
- The *global climate action portal* was regularly updated and, at the end of 2021, recognized over 26,000 non-Party stakeholders, including 11,191 cities, 283 subnational regions, 9,979 companies, 1,441 investors, 3,219 organizations and 151 international cooperative climate initiatives. The portal also tracks the progress of commitments made, including initiatives launched at the Secretary-General's 2019 Climate Action Summit;
- The *Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2021* – the fifth of a series – was launched at COP 26. It highlights the state of global climate action in 2021, showing a significant increase in the number of actors engaging in climate action and who announced net zero pledges.



ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT TO DELIVER AMBITION

In addition to establishing the political basis for increased ambition, it is important to engage stakeholders of all types to increase collaboration, broaden the types of actors and increase their capacity to undertake climate action. The secretariat worked with a wide range of partners, including governments, United Nations and non-United Nations organizations, private sector entities, foundations, philanthropies, think tanks and academia, to advance work in support of the Paris Agreement and to support COP 26.

Engaging regions for enhanced ambition. The Regional Collaboration Centres (RCCs) supported the engagement on increasing ambition in mitigation action in different regions. RCC Bangkok organized two events for countries from the

Asia-Pacific region to share insights on challenges and good practices in the process of updating and implementing NDCs. In collaboration with RCC Bangkok and the NDC Partnership, RCC Dubai successfully organized a virtual workshop to discuss lessons learned and future work relating to NDCs from Asia, the Middle East and North Africa in March. The three-day virtual workshop focused on providing countries with support on the enhancement and implementation of their NDCs and was attended by over 120 participants from 30 countries. Additionally, 12 development partners and financial institutions from across Asia, the Middle East and North Africa shared information on areas of collaboration to assist in enhancing and implementing NDCs.



Studies and statistics tell one story, but we must look beyond the numbers to the human lives they represent. I have been to the small island states threatened by rising waters. I've talked to school children frightened for their futures. I've talked to women who bear the burden of climate change at home but are shut out of the search for solutions the minute they walk out the door. I've talked to youth frustrated with what they see as a bleak future. The message they all have in common is this: they want to be included. They are right.

PATRICIA ESPINOSA
UN CLIMATE CHANGE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Engaging cities, regions, businesses and investors. Ambition in action from non-Party actors was further catalysed through the activities of the two high-level champions, with the support of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action and the RCCs. RCC Bangkok organized three events to enhance the understanding of small- and medium-sized enterprises and other private sector representatives for climate action. RCC Panama informed all Latin American countries about the high-level champion campaigns, including:

- Race to Zero, rallying non-Party actors to take rigorous and immediate action to halve their

emissions by 2030 and deliver a healthier, fairer, zero carbon world by 2050, reached 67 regions, 1,049 cities, 5,227 companies, 1,039 educational institutions, 441 financial institutions and over 3,000 hospitals from 52 health-care systems.

- The Race to Resilience, a sibling campaign of Race to Zero that aims to catalyse action by non-Party stakeholders to increase the resilience of 4 billion people from vulnerable groups and communities by 2030, brought together over 30 partners representing over 2,500 organizations.

- The **Climate Action Pathways**, which set out sectoral visions for striving towards a 1.5 °C resilient world by 2050, promoted near-term vision through the 2030 Breakthroughs that identify specific tipping points in each sector so that stakeholders can focus their efforts over the next five years to bring about change.

The **Climate Neutral Now** initiative was relaunched with a new set of indicators to recognize specific action by signatories across the dimensions of measuring, reducing and compensating towards their climate neutral commitment. The initiative grew from 360 to almost 700 signatories. Climate Neutral Now also supports the creation of other climate action initiatives, including at the national level with Chile, Costa Rica, Germany and Thailand; with intergovernmental organizations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations World Tourism Organization; and with the private sector, such as the tourism sector, the meetings industry, and the film and television sector.

Engagement on adaptation ambition.

The secretariat provided support to the Adaptation Committee to complete its planned activities in 2021 and develop a new workplan for 2022–2024. Key Adaptation Committee outputs supported by the secretariat included finalizing a paper on capacity gaps in accessing adaptation funding and a technical paper on approaches to reviewing the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation.

In addition, the secretariat supported the Adaptation Committee in hosting virtual meetings, including webinars on the global goal on adaptation and adaptation communications, and publishing three issues of the **Adaptation Finance Bulletin**. The secretariat also supported activities

of the Adaptation Committee aimed at ensuring the coherence of work related to adaptation across institutions working on adaptation.

The Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change catalyses adaptation action by closing knowledge gaps identified by Parties. Activities the secretariat supported included publishing a scoping paper on **knowledge gaps in integrating forest and grassland biodiversity and ecosystems into adaptation strategies** and a report on enhancing resilience of oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems through collaborative partnerships. The secretariat supported work under the Nairobi work programme, in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, in the context of the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative, by convening a group of climate change experts from the Pacific islands to prioritize **critical knowledge gaps in the small island developing States in the Pacific**. It also supported the collaboration of the Nairobi work programme expert group on oceans with Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), and on events to promote integrated technological and ecosystem-based approaches to building the **climate resilience of ocean and coastal communities and ecosystems**.



Engagement on innovation. The secretariat launched the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub at COP 26 to enhance the effectiveness of innovation to support climate and sustainability solutions. The hub includes a digital platform that facilitates the identification or development of innovative climate and sustainability solutions required to address demand. It also includes a physical space in the form of a pavilion at each COP that will host a dialogue among business leaders, financiers, policymakers, solution providers and members of civil society to identify alternative value chains aligned with global climate and sustainability goals to satisfy core human needs. The hub is expected to incentivize the establishment of ambitious NDCs, facilitate their effective implementation, enable their continuous update and track their progress towards global climate and

sustainability goals. It will also actively support the effective implementation of the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement.

Engaging for an inclusive and just transition. For the first time, three virtual technical expert meetings were organized on issues related to the wider impacts of measures taken in response to climate change. Parties and stakeholders expressed an increased demand to further enhance the collaboration and action to enable a just transition⁸ and to have action-oriented recommendations as an output of the technical work undertaken by the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures. The Katowice Committee on Impacts is preparing a communication and engagement strategy to enhance its reach to stakeholders.



© PHOTO BY UN CLIMATE CHANGE/KIARA WORTH

⁸ Just transition refers to a framework for a fair and sustainable shift to a low-carbon economy.

The Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP), with the secretariat's assistance, maintained and strengthened the progress of work under the LCIPP, which facilitated the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities, making use of their knowledge and values in designing and implementing climate policies and actions. COP 26 reviewed and extended the mandate of the Facilitative Working Group and welcomed the second workplan of the LCIPP, recognizing the important role of the LCIPP in bringing together Parties and indigenous peoples and local communities to achieve the objectives of the Convention and the Paris Agreement⁹. The engagement of youth in climate action and their critical role as agents of change continued to grow, as did the secretariat's support for their meaningful engagement and active participation in the UNFCCC process. For example, the secretariat contributed to the Youth4Climate 2021: Driving Ambition event hosted by Italy in Milan and the youth-led sixteenth Conference of Youth. COP 26 expressed its appreciation for the insights garnered from both events, and the Youth and Public Empowerment Day provided a platform for highlighting the expertise of young people and ensuring their voices were heard.

The secretariat engaged with youth and civil society representatives to inspire, enhance knowledge and drive action for their engagement in climate action at the United Nations Development Programme's Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Action and supported six regional networking sessions to help youth delegates learn more about the secretariat.

Action for Climate Empowerment refers to work on climate education, public awareness, training, public access to information, public participation and international cooperation, with a cross-cutting focus on children and youth. The secretariat organized a series of virtual activities over the course of eight months that served as a successful foundation for the new 10-year Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment adopted at COP 26. The new work programme will catalyse multi-stakeholder action in order to contribute to the urgent and just transition to low-emission and climate-resilient economies and societies. A collaboration between the German regional government of North Rhine-Westphalia and the secretariat led to the establishment of an Action for Climate Empowerment hub for governments and other stakeholders across the world to build skills, acquire tools and knowledge, and connect in order to more effectively engage the public, including young people, in climate action.



⁹ See decision 16/CP.26.



IMPLEMENTATION



SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION

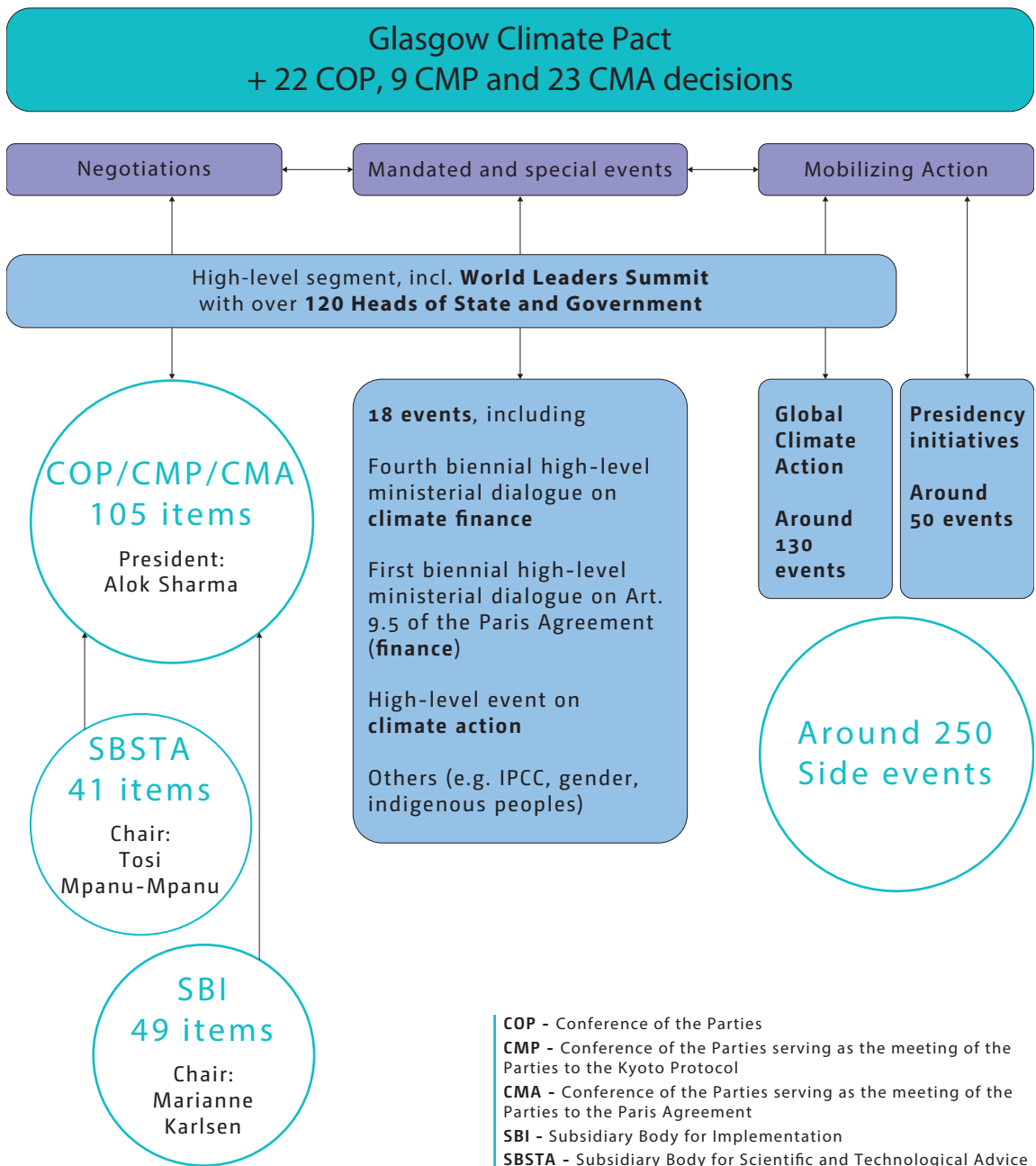
While raising ambition is necessary, as underscored by science, implementing existing agreements at pace is also important. COP 26 brought together over 120 world leaders and a record

38,459 representatives of government, civil society, business and youth from almost 200 countries with the aim of turning the 2020s into a decade of climate action and support.

After over two weeks of intense negotiations (see figure 2), Parties adopted the Glasgow Climate Pact and other decisions aimed at strengthening efforts to build resilience to climate change, curbing GHG emissions and providing the

necessary finance for both. The decisions adopted in Glasgow reflect a global compromise that represents a delicate balance between the interests and aspirations of the many countries involved.

FIGURE 2
COP 26 at a glance



At the Glasgow Conference, the secretariat supported intergovernmental negotiations that clarified the functioning of the clean development mechanism after the end of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. These included various decisions to support the expedited implementation of, and capacity-building in, developing countries for the application of the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement.

In 2020, the Executive Secretary encouraged an open channel of communication with non-governmental organization constituencies in a consultative planning process on good practices of public participation and access to information relating to NDCs and NAPs. The engagement of observer organizations in the May–June 2021 sessions of the subsidiary bodies led to the highest number of interventions by observers during informal consultations. The open channel of communication also led to the implementation of new measures at COP 26 relating to the facilitation of advocacy, including the ‘People’s Plenary’ on the last day of the conference.

As well as providing logistical and organizational support, the secretariat assisted in procedural and legal matters pertaining to

convening the sessions of the governing and subsidiary bodies. The advice and support focused on issues arising in the context of convening the sessions of the subsidiary bodies in a virtual setting in May and June and in Glasgow in November. In addition, advice and support were provided on politically sensitive legal and procedural matters relating to negotiations on adaptation, capacity-building, climate finance, loss and damage, mitigation, response measures, and technology and transparency, as well as on negotiations of the Glasgow Climate Pact. The secretariat also supported the Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee and the Kyoto Protocol Compliance Committee, which ensured a successful outcome of their work. During COP 26, the secretariat convened the Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee: An Introduction to its Role and Function event to raise awareness and support building capacity of the work of the Committee.

157 instances of legal advice were provided on various legal, procedural and institutional matters relating to the intergovernmental process. The advice and support contributed to the successful adoption of the Glasgow Climate Pact and other key outcomes at the Glasgow Climate Change Conference.



Artwork displayed around the venue at COP 26

DATA AND INFORMATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION

An important part of ensuring accountability and transparency for implementation is the provision of data and information, which is also supported by the secretariat.

Reporting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Determining how and from where GHGs are being emitted is an indispensable basis for climate action. The secretariat prepared and published the [aggregate GHG information report](#), the [GHG data report](#) and the [compilation and accounting report and addendum](#), in accordance with its mandates. It also prepared and published status reports in support of the GHG review process. It managed the receipt, processing, archiving and publication of all official documents submitted by Parties under the current monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system and regularly updated the GHG data interface in order to present the latest information reported by Parties.

Review of annual information submitted by Annex I Parties on greenhouse gas inventories. Ensuring that Parties' submissions are subject to review is an essential component of the MRV process and of promoting transparency. The secretariat organized reviews for Annex I Parties in accordance with its mandates, including the preparation of annual review reports. In addition, the secretariat prepared annual reports to the SBSTA on the technical review of GHG inventories and other information reported by Parties included in Annex I, as defined in Article 1, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol. These reports are provided to the SBSTA for its consideration and

input for its guidance on selecting experts and coordinating expert review teams and the review process.

Accounting under the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. To enable assessment of Parties' compliance with Article 3 of the Kyoto Protocol, total aggregated emissions and removals by Annex I Parties in the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol are monitored and precise records are kept of the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms, including the clean development mechanism and the use of units from land use and land-use change and forestry. The Kyoto Protocol established a rigorous MRV system and a compliance system to ensure transparency and hold Parties to account, and the secretariat has a vital role in supporting those systems.

Accounting of certified emission reductions. The secretariat continues its role in ensuring the accurate accounting of the issuance, holding and acquisition of certified emission reductions of the clean development mechanism. There was a 42 per cent increase in the issuance of certified emission reductions for 2021 compared with 2020 (101 million versus 70.9 million), the highest amount issued since 2017. There was also a more than 90 per cent increase in the number of certified emission reductions voluntarily cancelled (37.1 million in 2021 versus 19.4 million in 2020). The secretariat also began a new partnership with [AirCarbon Exchange](#), the world's first digital carbon exchange, to promote carbon offsetting through the purchase of certified emission reductions.

The United Nations carbon offset platform is a service of the clean development mechanism registry that allows the public to purchase certified emission reductions online for voluntary cancellation. The platform has grown considerably since its launch in late 2015, with almost 2 million certified emission reductions being claimed and cancelled in 2021 and each certified emission reduction is equivalent to 1 tonne of carbon dioxide avoided or reduced. The platform's promotion is supported by the secretariat's Climate Neutral Now initiative.

Engaging indigenous peoples and local communities. The work of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) was made more widely accessible by operationalizing the LCIPP web portal. The portal offers concrete ways for LCIPP contributors to access resources and events.

Providing tools, methodologies and data. As the challenges of climate change are similar in many countries, the secretariat has a role in providing access to useful tools and methodologies, such as a database to facilitate Parties' use of existing tools and methodologies to undertake assessments of the wider impacts of the implementation of measures to respond to climate change. The database supports two technical papers produced by the Katowice

Committee on Impacts and aims to facilitate just transition and economic diversification. The Law and Climate Change Toolkit was expanded to support the establishment of national climate change legislation, with the inclusion of an additional module on fisheries and climate change and developments being prepared for finalization in 2022. The secretariat, the Commonwealth Secretariat and United Nations Environment Programme, who are the core partners of the toolkit, together with other key partners, organized an event that showcased the toolkit at the Law and Governance Day 2021, which was conducted in conjunction with COP 26.

The secretariat actively collaborates on climate data related to agriculture, forestry and other land use with organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the Global Forest Observation Initiative or the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries.

The secretariat supported the integration of remote sensing and ground data to help estimate land sector GHG emissions and removals, and the estimation of the mitigation potential for GHG emissions.

ENGAGEMENT TO ENHANCE IMPLEMENTATION



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The secretariat also enhanced implementation across mitigation, adaptation and finance.

Implementing country plans. NDCs, national adaptation plans (NAPs) and LT-LEDS all set out national plans for action. The Implementation Labs, delivered at the regional climate weeks, provided a space for national government representatives and non-Party stakeholders in each region to have an open and solution-oriented dialogue on priorities and needs of countries for implementing these plans. Enhanced engagement at the regional level was also delivered with the help of the RCCs through substantive support in meetings, workshops and webinars on NDCs, LT-LEDS and sectoral mitigation. Examples include a three-part virtual exchange series on NDC support by RCC St. George's and a collaboration between RCC Dubai and the International Renewable Energy Agency to organize the Climate-Energy Dialogue in the Middle East and North Africa. The dialogue served as a regional forum for the

discussion on NDC implementation through driving the energy transition and building momentum on climate action in the lead-up to COP 26.

The Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action Initiative, established by the secretariat to assist Parties in developing carbon pricing instruments and implemented with the assistance of the RCCs, delivered activities across the regions. Examples include funding a full-time position as the coordinator of the Eastern Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance and national consultations held by RCC Lomé with stakeholders in Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Nigeria on carbon pricing instruments. RCC St. George's, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States secretariat and the World Bank held a workshop on carbon markets and related mechanisms, and RCC Panama organized a side event on carbon pricing instruments and financial strategies for implementing NDCs to demonstrate some of their benefits at a regional level.



Stimulating the uptake of climate technology. Technology development and transfer has an important role to play in both mitigation and adaptation action. The TEC and the Climate Technology Centre and Network, with the support

of the secretariat, prepared a joint publication providing a comprehensive analysis and synthesis of information on technology needs and challenges, linkages between policy and implementation, and linkages between NDCs and NAPs.

We need stronger, more robust national climate action plans and we need them as soon as possible. It is equally clear that technology, innovation, research and development will continue to be a crucial part of the equation

PATRICIA ESPINOSA

UNFCCC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, AT THE OPENING OF JOINT SESSION OF THE TEC AND THE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE AND NETWORK

The TEC extended its collaboration within the secretariat and with external partners at the regional and global level, including the United Nations, for publications and events. The TEC published a series of **technical papers and policy briefs** that advanced climate technology solutions by compiling good practices, highlighting lessons learned and identifying innovative approaches to scale up climate actions. With the assistance of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the TEC published a technical paper on enabling environments and challenges to technology development and transfer identified in technology needs assessments, NDCs and relevant TEC briefs to deliver relevant key messages and recommendations to Parties at COP 26.

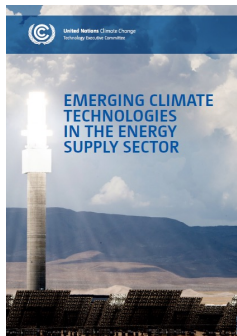
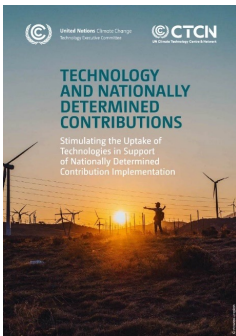
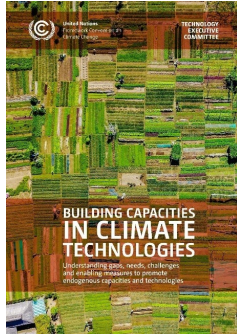
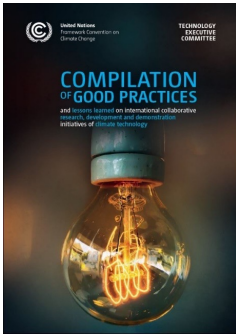
Furthermore, in collaboration with different stakeholders, including high-level champions and the RCC, the TEC hosted **three events** at Asia-Pacific Climate Week. The event included discussions

on the role of innovation and emerging technologies in enabling a sustainable transition of the energy supply sector in the Asia-Pacific region and reaching net zero emissions by 2050.

During Africa Climate Week, the secretariat, in collaboration with RCC Kampala, organized a **thematic session** on advancing electric mobility in Africa. This event showcased examples of e-mobility solutions implemented in Africa and discussed policy options for accelerating the upscaling and diffusion of successful technological solutions in the region. Outside of climate weeks, the secretariat organized a **webinar** to assist countries in developing their project ideas to the level of being recognized and supported by financial institutions. The webinar attracted multilateral development banks, including the Inter-American Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other financial institutions.

BOX 3

Means of implementation tech publications



TNA publications:



Building capacity. Capacity-building is key to strengthening climate change adaptation and mitigation and cuts across all areas of work at the secretariat. In June, the 10th Durban Forum on capacity-building was organized with support from the secretariat and was attended by approximately 120 capacity-building stakeholders who discussed capacities for addressing climate and development goals.

At the 5th meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB), held virtually with the support of the secretariat, the PCCB and more than 170 observers met to discuss progress in the work of the PCCB. The 3rd Capacity-building Hub, a week-long event series at COP 26 that was organized by the PCCB with secretariat support, attracted over 4,700 participants who discussed a wide range of urgent capacity-building issues

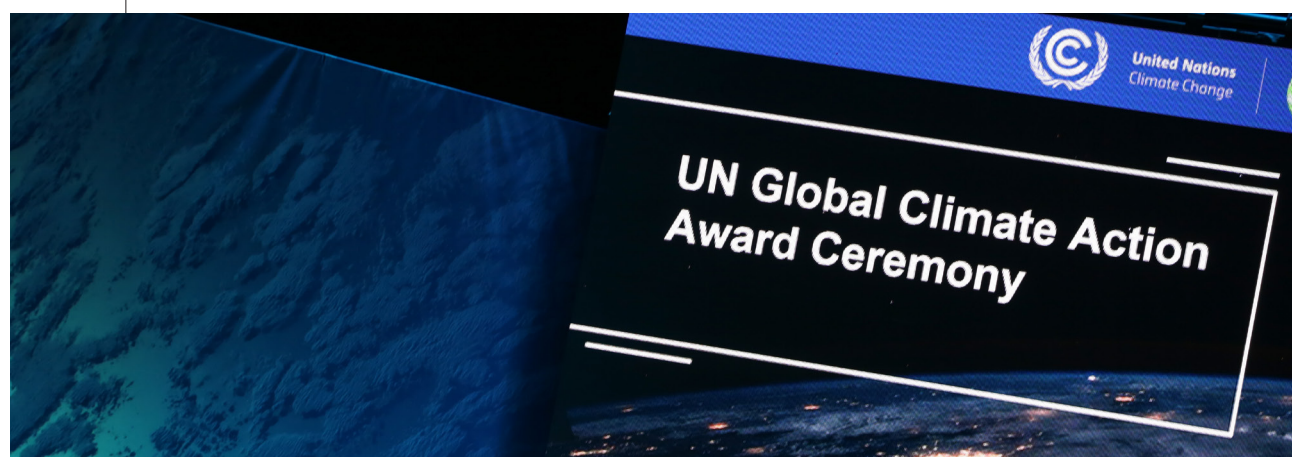
under different thematic areas such as adaptation and resilience, and finance and technology. The PCCB created an informal coordination group for capacity-building as a key vehicle for representatives of constituted bodies, operating entities and relevant UNFCCC processes to coordinate climate change related capacity-building plans and activities, and organized the virtual event series You(th) in Capacity-building at the regional climate weeks, which facilitated the sharing of experience and best practices to engage youth in capacity-building for NDC implementation and resilience-building. An online training course on climate change and human rights, jointly launched in June by the PCCB, the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights and the secretariat, with support from the Government of Germany, attracted over 8,100 learners (as at December 2021).

The PCCB Network, coordinated by the secretariat on behalf of the PCCB, had reached 276 member institutions worldwide by the end of 2021, including 29 members from the least developed countries and 10 from small island developing States. The PCCB Network implemented more than 20 activities, including training workshops, regional meet-ups, podcasts and newsletters. The secretariat also launched a LinkedIn group in July to connect with the capacity-building community and continued its Capacity-building Talks public event series with two virtual events focused on enhancing access to capacity-building and ensuring it responds to the needs and priorities of developing countries.

Implementation by non-Party stakeholders. The secretariat engaged widely with cities, regions, businesses and investors to support implementation of their own strategies on climate change and to inspire others to take action. COP 26 included more than 100 events related to climate action, including more than 70 innovative and inspiring sessions at the [Climate Action Hub](#). At a regional level, RCC Dubai conducted a mapping study for private sector engagement in capacity-building activities for climate action in countries in the Middle East and North Africa. The TEC, in collaboration with the high-level champions, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the Marrakech Partnership for

Global Climate Action, RCC Bangkok and the United Nations Environment Programme, organized three events at Asia-Pacific Climate Week to discuss the role of emerging decarbonization technologies in enabling a sustainable transition of the energy supply sector in the region.

The United Nations Global Climate Action Awards shine a light on the enormous groundswell of activities under way across the globe that are moving the world towards a highly resilient, low-carbon future. A total of 11 game-changing initiatives received a Global Climate Action Award for their innovative, scalable and practical climate actions (see box 4). Sector action is also important, and the [Sports for Climate Action Framework](#) multiplied its signatory base to more than 300 of the leading sports events, clubs and federations worldwide. At COP 26 the signatories adopted a new set of commitments aligned with the 1.5 °C goal, including by reducing their climate footprint by 50 per cent by 2030. The [Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action](#) includes some 170 of the world's leading brands, suppliers and fashion organizations. After a year of deliberations, the signatories agreed to a decarbonization plan that aligns with Paris Agreement ambitions to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, with ambitious actions set throughout the sector, including the supply chains.



BOX 4**2021 United Nations Global Climate Action Award Winners****Climate Neutral Now:**

- **Microsoft | Global:** Carbon-neutral since 2012, Microsoft is committing to remove from the environment, by 2050, all the carbon the company has emitted either directly or by electrical consumption since it was founded in 1975
- **Taylors of Harrogate | United Kingdom:** An independent family tea and coffee business whose carbon-neutral product certification is from 'field to supermarket shelf', accounting for all the emissions from cultivating, processing and shipping its tea and coffee
- **ICA Gruppen | Sweden:** Sweden's leading food retailer is going beyond achieving climate neutrality to a net zero impact from the group's own operations by 2030 and halvinghalving the climate impact from customers' grocery purchases by 2030
- **House of Baukjen | United Kingdom:** A London-based fashion house whose business and operations follow in every way the circular economy ideal, from production to materials being cycled, and does so while being carbon negative

Financing for Climate Friendly Investment:

- **SunFunder | Africa:** The leading debt-financing provider for distributed solar in Africa, bringing access to energy and long-term climate investments. By 2021, it had funded over USD 150 million in loans to 57 solar companies
- **Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance | Multi-regional:** The Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance network accelerates well-designed financial instruments that can unlock billions of dollars towards a sustainable, inclusive, net zero economy, while also reducing private investors' risks
- **Energise Africa | Africa:** A United Kingdom crowdfunding platform that enables people to support renewable energy projects (home solar) in sub-Saharan Africa. To date, it has raised over 25 million pounds sterling in investments from everyday people putting their money to work for climate action and the Sustainable Development Goals
- **Self-reliance & Solar in the West Bank & Gaza | State of Palestine:** The first private sector investments in domestic power supply aim to help jump-start renewables and support economic development in the West Bank and Gaza, supported by the International Finance Corporation

Climate Leaders:

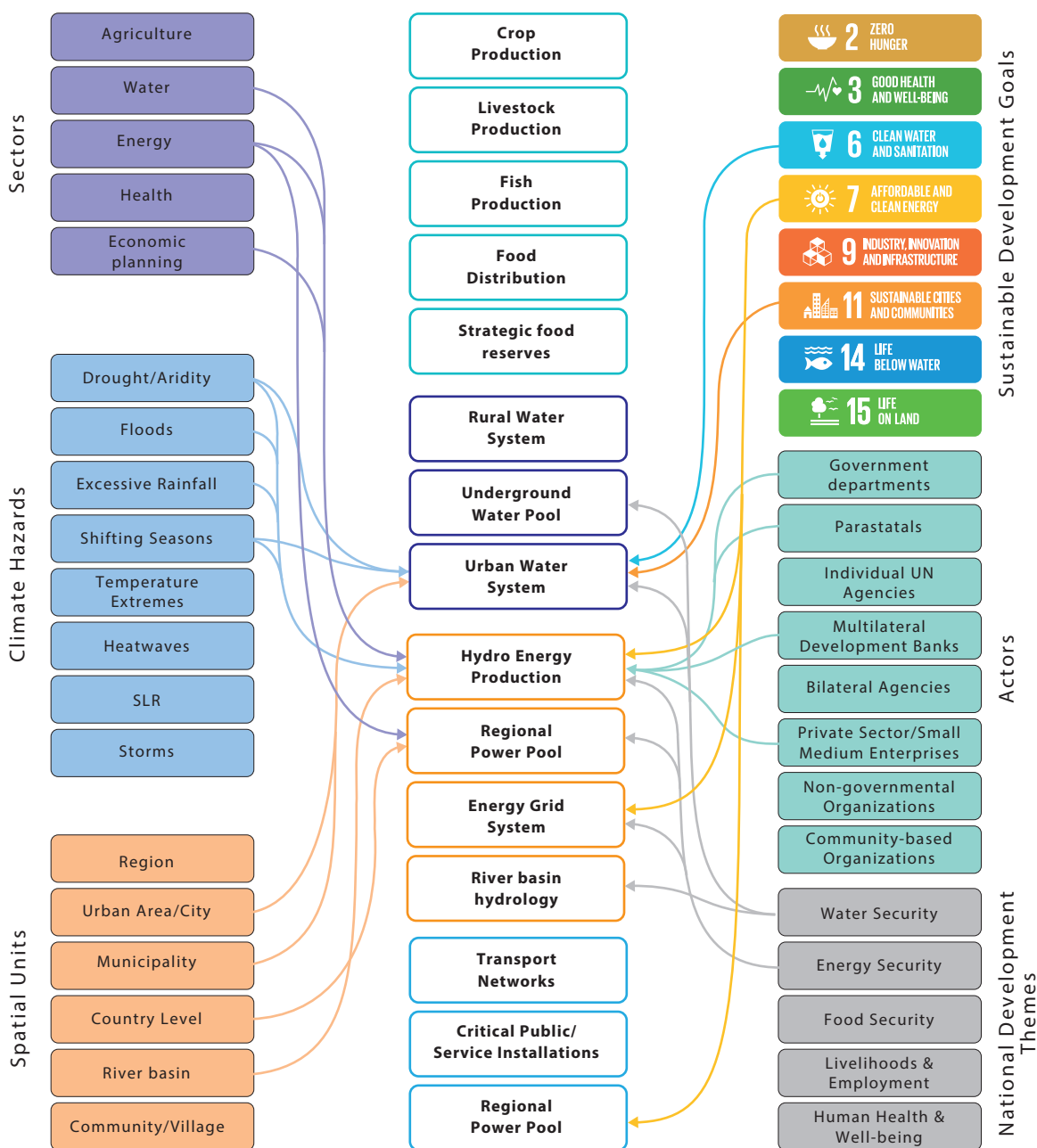
- **City of Paris | France:** By 2050, the City of Paris aims to reduce local emissions by 100 per cent, achieving the goal of zero emissions in Paris and promoting an 80 per cent reduction in the carbon footprint of Paris compared to 2004 levels
- **Samsø | Denmark:** Denmark's municipality of the island of Samsø has completely transformed its energy system from fossil fuels to renewable energy, becoming the world's first renewable energy island
- **Metropolitan Area of Guadalajara | Mexico:** The Metropolitan Area of Guadalajara Climate Action Plan, launched at the end of 2020, is the first instrument of its kind, built on a metropolitan scale in Mexico and within the C40 Network

Engagement on adaptation. The Least Developed Countries Expert Group launched the year-long celebration of 20 years of intense activity. This milestone affirmed that the work of the Group and its support for adaptation to least developed countries is of paramount importance. The Group continued to help countries achieve their goal of submitting NAPs as soon as possible. It provided support directly to countries through

the Open NAP initiative by assisting national experts in the African least developed countries in drafting NAPs. With the assistance of the NAP technical working group, the NAP writing workshop was conducted virtually to provide technical assistance to countries still producing their NAPs and to those transitioning to implementation. By the end of 2021, 31 NAPs were available on NAP Central, which is 11 more than in 2020.

FIGURE 3

NAP Sustainable Development Goals integrative framework shows how systems interact



To ensure the provision of technical support to developing countries in the process of formulating or implementing NAPs, the secretariat established UN4NAPs, a United Nations system-wide partnership initiative. A workshop was successfully organized with UN4NAPs partners to introduce Caribbean countries to the initiative and explore opportunities to tap into the expertise of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations.

RCC Dubai supported the preparation and delivery of the two virtual technical workshops to close priority knowledge gaps in the Gulf Cooperation Council/West Asia and North Africa subregions under the implementation of the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative, a joint action pledge under the UNFCCC, in these regions. The UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme, coordinated by the Nairobi work programme, provides graduate students with the opportunity to work closely with local, national and regional partners in undertaking projects as part of their master's thesis in countries including Namibia, Nepal, Peru and Seychelles. Research projects also took place in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region and North Africa subregion. The projects were focused on producing tangible outputs to enable countries and subregions to adapt to climate change.

Accessing climate finance. Climate finance will be key for Parties to expeditiously implement their NDC and NAPs. The secretariat supplements its support to intergovernmental work by facilitating access of developing countries to climate finance at the country and regional levels. This includes supporting countries in identifying their finance needs, setting climate finance strategies to meet those needs and matchmaking countries with financiers to implement those strategies. The Needs-based Finance project, as mandated at COP 23, progressed in more than 100

countries and regions participating despite the pandemic. Several regional technical assessments on climate finance were conducted, regional climate finance mobilization and access strategies, including project pipelines were developed, and arrangements for implementation with partners were concluded. Virtual workshops facilitated technical consultations among representatives of countries on their finance needs, finance flows and areas of strategic focus and priorities, and five countries (Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Honduras and Uruguay) and two regions (Central Asia and South Caucasus, and South and South-West Asia) became involved in the project. A project brochure summarizing progress in 2020–2021 was produced for Parties ahead of COP 26 and a high-level event on the needs of developing countries was organized in Glasgow to engage ministers from the participating developing countries. RCC Dubai supported the needs-based finance team in organizing a consultation on the technical assessment of climate finance for the Arab States and RCC Lomé supported the development of the Needs-based Finance project in West Africa in collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States and the West African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance.

The secretariat was also able to help mobilize finance. RCC Kampala introduced the Ewaso Ng'iro North Development Authority in Kenya to the East African Development Bank Kenya country office to explore potential funding opportunities to implement a 400 MW wind power generation project (the largest in Africa) through the clean development mechanism. RCC Lomé raised USD 200,000 from the West African Development Bank to support the establishment of the Academy for Global Youth Leadership Empowerment hub in Africa and the development of a course curriculum and the mapping of regional institutions that are leading in climate action.

A series of events on climate finance were organized by the secretariat, including webinars on the role of microfinance in the replacement or acquisition of appliances and on trusts and forest funds for results-based payments and payments for services schemes. Information exchanges between countries and climate finance institutions were facilitated through the secretariat's support of the Forum on finance for nature-based solutions organized by the Standing Committee on Finance. The Forum facilitated a very rich discussion on ways to catalyse nature-based climate actions, which is urgently required to address climate and environmental emergencies and identify ways to accelerate the mobilization and delivery of finance. The Committee also produced its two flagship reports:

- The Fourth Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows, which included, for the first time, efforts to make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low GHG emissions and climate-resilient development;
- The first report on the determination of the needs of developing country parties, which laid the groundwork for better understanding the needs of developing countries to implement the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

Inclusive implementation. To ensure inclusivity of climate action, together with Parties and other stakeholders, the secretariat sought to galvanize support for the establishment of ambitious new commitments on gender-responsive and transformative climate action. Such commitments were announced at a high-level event, hosted by the United Kingdom in collaboration with the secretariat, on Gender Day at COP 26. The event focused on raising awareness of inequalities and sought to spread a message of hope. An online training course was targeted at the public to help them better understand, participate in and act on climate change as well as human rights challenges and opportunities. As at 31 December, 8,151 learners had registered for the course and 1,752 certificates of completion had been awarded.



High-level event, hosted by the United Kingdom in collaboration with the secretariat, on Gender Day at COP 26. The event was opened with a powerful poem by Samoan poet and climate activist Brianna Fruean, who was joined by Little Amal, a giant puppet representing a young Syrian refugee who had walked across Europe to raise awareness of inequalities and to spread a message of hope.

At the Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, RCC St. George's, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Caribbean Youth Environment Network, and other regional partners launched the Academy for Global Youth Leadership Empowerment in the Caribbean, which builds on and adds value to existing regional youth engagement frameworks. The PCCB, with the support of the secretariat and in collaboration with the PCCB Network, organized a virtual event series at the regional climate weeks to provide a platform for regional dialogues to explore the role of youth in capacity-building and to share best practices for engaging youth in capacity-building for NDC implementation and resilience-building.

The TEC and the PCCB also supported efforts to mainstream gender consideration in their work. At its 23rd meeting, the TEC reported the historical achievement of gender balance in its events, with more women than men participating in TEC events.

Engaging broadly. The reach and engagement across the secretariat's social media channels were over 1,600 per cent higher during COP 26 than COP 25, driven by increased public interest in climate change and strategic partnerships with key digital companies. The public website saw double the amount of website visits compared to 2020, and the secretariat engaged with an increased number of media and strengthened its position of being a leading voice on climate change. Strategic collaboration with all major digital platforms, including Facebook, Google, Twitter and YouTube was established. The launch of the NDC reports and COP 26 were major international media events and resulted in significant media coverage. With more than 4,000 journalists in attendance, the Glasgow Conference saw a record number of media representatives attending a United Nations Climate Change Conference: more than 260 press conferences for Parties, observers and United Nations agencies were organized over the two weeks.



The Executive Secretary, Patricia Espinosa, with all female Ministers at COP 26.



ACCOUNTABILITY

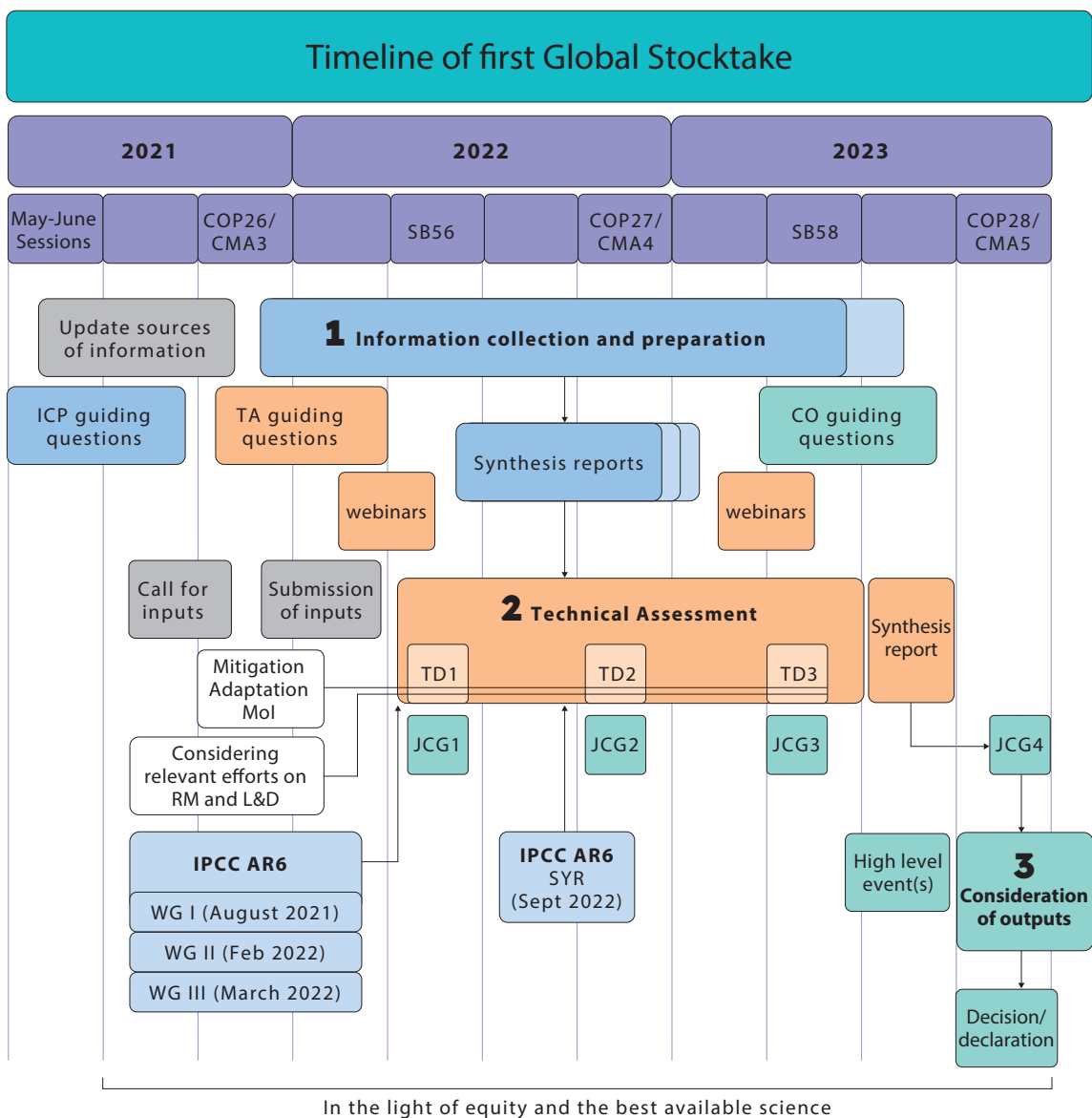
ENABLING ACCOUNTABILITY

The secretariat has an important role in enabling the accountability and transparency that are vital to building confidence in the international response to climate change, which includes supporting the processes used to report data and for the independent review of information submitted by Parties under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and

the Paris Agreement and supporting negotiations on matters relating to accountability.

CMA 3 welcomed the start of the first global stocktake, which will end at CMA 5. CMA 3 encouraged the high-level champions to support the effective participation of non-Party stakeholders in the global stocktake.¹⁰

FIGURE 4



¹⁰ At COP 21, it was agreed that two high-level champions would be appointed to connect the work of governments with the many voluntary and collaborative actions taken by non-Party stakeholders (e.g. cities, regions, businesses and investors).

It was a critical year in the continuing international effort to transition from the measurement, reporting and verification arrangements under the Convention to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). The secretariat focused its efforts on preparing and engaging Parties to ensure the successful finalization of the negotiations on operationalizing the ETF, while continuing to advance internal business practices, tools and systems in preparation for the ETF. The secretariat was active in supporting preparatory meetings, dialogues, workshops and information events over the course of the year. At COP 26 the secretariat supported the relevant co-facilitators in preparing the transparency-related decisions for consideration for adoption.

The successful completion at the Glasgow Conference of the negotiations on the remaining matters related to the implementation of the ETF was important as it ensured that the next steps of the implementation of the ETF can progress. Agreements reached included the adoption of the common reporting tables for the electronic reporting of the information in national inventory reports, the common tabular formats for the electronic reporting of the information necessary to track progress in implementing and achieving NDCs under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, and the common tabular formats for the electronic reporting on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support provided and mobilized, as well as support needed and received.

Other related activities were initiated by decisions made during the Glasgow Conference, including the development of reporting and review tools, an interactive web portal to facilitate the availability of information and ongoing work to ensure the interoperability between the reporting tools and

the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change inventory software. The secretariat continued coordinating efforts to support the transition to the ETF across different workstreams related to issues such as tools and training for expert reviewers.

The secretariat also supported the successful conclusion of the negotiations at the Glasgow Conference on a registry to record adaptation communications, which enabled operationalizing an arrangement for publishing adaptation communications in 2022, thus enhancing the visibility and profile of adaptation.

In addition to facilitating the adoption of the complete set of guidance on transparency, the secretariat continued to support the ongoing reporting and review under the UNFCCC process:

- Since 2014, the secretariat has coordinated the assessment of the progress of 56 developing countries in tackling deforestation. The Lima REDD+ Information Hub reported verified emission reductions from REDD+ activities of just over 8 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent at the end of 2021. As a result of their success in addressing drivers of deforestation and improving the sustainable management of forests, and transparently demonstrating their results, eight countries were granted results-based financing, amounting to USD 500 million, from the Green Climate Fund;
- Non-Annex I Parties submitted 36 biennial update reports that included updates of national GHG inventories and information on mitigation actions, needs and support received. The secretariat coordinated virtual rounds of technical analysis of biennial update reports and workshops for the facilitative sharing of views.

Three rounds of technical analyses were coordinated for 23 Parties, involving 114 experts, which included 10 experts on land use, land-use change and forestry who conducted the technical analysis of REDD+ technical annexes for Parties seeking results-based payments. Summary reports published as a result of this technical analysis process outlined the findings of the experts, particularly the capacity-building needs. The findings were identified in consultation with the Parties analysed and aim to enhance the extent and transparency of information reported in subsequent biennial update reports and national communications. The technical

analyses are also geared at enhancing the technical capacity of new experts;

- The secretariat facilitated the review of 11 fourth biennial reports from Annex I Parties in three centralized reviews. The review reports were prepared within the mandated timeline and published on the UNFCCC website. Two multilateral assessment sessions for 30 Parties were conducted virtually in June and in-person at COP 26. Summary reports on the multilateral assessments are available on the UNFCCC website. The multilateral assessment sessions concluded the fourth round of the international assessment and review process;



- The secretariat organized the eighth meeting of lead reviewers for the review of biennial reports and national communications, which resulted in conclusions that provide guidance to expert review teams to improve the consistency and efficiency of the reviews. The conclusions are published on the UNFCCC website and were forwarded to the SBSTA for its consideration. Of the 104 experts who attended the virtual meeting, 49 were from non-Annex I Parties and 55 from Annex I Parties;
- The secretariat coordinated individual reviews of 21 GHG inventory submissions by Annex I Parties, of which 15 were organized in five centralized reviews conducted remotely, and 6 organized in three desk reviews. In selecting members of expert review teams, the secretariat seeks to ensure an overall geographical balance in the number of experts from Annex I Parties and non-Annex I Parties. A total of 119 individuals from 55 Parties served as GHG inventory experts on review teams. The secretariat continues to reinforce the capacity of review resources by inviting new review experts to participate in centralized reviews. Nine new experts, who had taken the training courses for reviews under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and passed the corresponding examinations, participated in reviews. The secretariat continued making efforts to improve the timeliness of the publication of the review reports during the 2021 review cycle while maintaining the required quality, in particular by increasing the number of experts per team and updating the review materials and tools. One of the highlights of this review cycle was the preparation of a special assessment for the early identification of potential problems regarding reporting on activities under [Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol](#);
- The 18th meeting of the lead reviewers was held virtually from 22 to 26 March. The meeting also included the participation of members of the facilitative branch of the Compliance Committee, the International Energy Agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the European Environment Agency as observers. Meetings of lead reviewers are critical to the review process, as they provide guidance on how to improve the quality, efficiency and consistency of the reviews. Lead reviewers also offer guidance on matters such as review tools and materials and review report templates. The conclusions and recommendations from this meeting also provided the SBSTA with input for its guidance on selecting experts and coordinating expert review teams and the review process.



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DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT

To ensure accountability, the secretariat has maintained and enhanced the way data are managed and made accessible.

Tools for reporting and review. The secretariat provided continuous maintenance, operability and access to experts, Parties and the public to all systems, applications and tools related to MRV and transparency,

including the NDC registry and nationally appropriate mitigation action registry. Several tools used for communication, reporting and review were enhanced, for example, Common Reporting Format Reporter, the Statistical Outlier Detection Tool, the virtual team room for GHG reviews and the virtual team room for the technical analyses of biennial update reports.

Among the activities supporting the reporting by developing countries, an interactive GHG Help Desk was launched. The secretariat also provided financial support for and collaborated with the IPCC inventory team on the enhancement of the IPCC Inventory Software to improve GHG inventories from developing countries. It also supported the development of a GHG data collection and management tool (Sectoral Activity data for GHG Emissions) to facilitate GHG inventories in developing countries, starting with the energy and industrial processes and product use sectors.

The information technology tools for biennial reports, namely the virtual team room and multilateral assessment portal, were enhanced. Materials to support the process of reviews of biennial reports were improved, including by updating and reviewing the review practice guidance, streamlining review report templates and checklists, and updating the database of recommendations and review experts' guidance. The lead reviewers updated and endorsed the review practice guidance during their annual meeting.

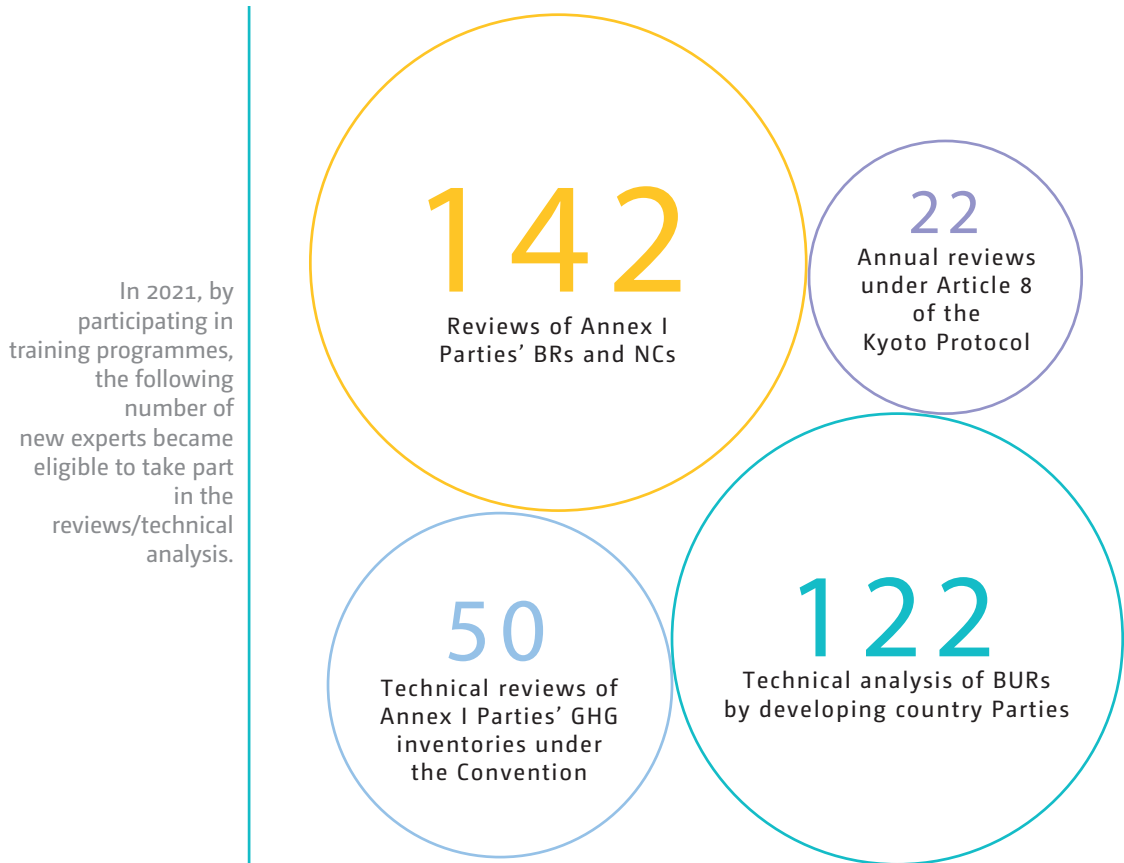
Improving the user experience. The Adaptation division initiated the Adaptation Digital Ecosystem initiative, aiming to streamline the user experience and user interface of all Adaptation division online

portals and make their maintenance more efficient. The first milestone of the project was successfully concluded with the launch of the LCIPP web portal.

Guidance materials. Guidance materials for quality assurance of GHG inventory management systems were developed and disseminated, and information technology tools and mechanisms necessary to support the implementation of the quality assurance of national GHG inventories were maintained.

ENGAGEMENT TO ENABLE ACCOUNTABILITY

Technical capacity-building. The first training for technical expert reviewers of GHG inventories organized by the secretariat dates back nearly two decades. Since then, the secretariat has developed and implemented four training programmes: for technical experts who take part in the reviews of Annex I Parties' national communications, biennial reports and GHG inventory submissions and the technical analysis of biennial update reports of developing country Parties, along with the evaluation of the MRV arrangements under the Convention. Each training programme consists of e-learning courses and final examinations for certifying successful participants. Hands-on training seminars of the review simulation exercise are also offered for GHG inventory experts.

FIGURE 5

At the Glasgow Conference, Parties adopted a new training programme for the reviewers of biennial transparency reports under the ETF and requested the secretariat to develop and implement the programme, incorporating, as appropriate, technical advice from the Consultative Group of Experts and lead reviewers. Immediately after the conference, work on developing training courses for the new programme increased to meet the requirement to complete the launch of all courses in time for the first round of review of biennial transparency reports.

The secretariat also supported promoting awareness, understanding and enhancing institutional and technical capacities of developing country Parties. In collaboration with regional partners, regional virtual training workshops and meetings were organized, to enhance technical capacities of national experts from developing country Parties on NDCs

and the ETF, reaching more than 1,000 experts. Various *knowledge products*, including training materials, tools and infographics, were designed to facilitate the understanding of the existing MRV arrangements, the ETF and provisions on tracking and reporting progress towards NDCs.

Building on the experiences and lessons learned regarding the challenges relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, the secretariat supported the organization of many capacity-building activities, including:

- Seven regional training workshops, through the work of the Consultative Group of Experts, on institutional arrangements for the existing MRV and the ETF, including data management for national GHG inventories, reaching 313 participants from 90 countries, conducted in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Russian;

- Two series of webinars: “Synergies at the national level in data collection for reporting under the UNFCCC and other international instruments”, attended by 84 experts, and “Embedding climate reporting in national statistics as a way of enhancing institutional arrangements in a sustainable manner”, in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division, reaching 215 experts;
- A town hall meeting, held in April, involving a wide range of review experts in a discussion on the transition to the ETF;
- A stocktaking survey, conducted in May, on MRV and transparency needs and gaps
- E-learning courses on vulnerability and adaptation assessment, mitigation assessment and national GHG inventories, reaching 368 experts;
- Technical assistance to developing countries for setting up sustainable national GHG inventory management systems and development of their national GHG inventory improvement plans;
- Organization, in collaboration with the IPCC, of three regional series of five webinars on the IPCC Inventory Software, involving a total of 631 participants;
- Organization, in collaboration with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, of two regional series of five webinars on building sustainable national GHG inventory management systems, including the dissemination of new training materials in several official United Nations languages, involving a total of 303 participants.

Engagement of partners and regions.

The engagement of partners and regions in accountability activities was extensive. The secretariat organized two meetings of an informal network (Group of Friends on MRV/transparency framework for developing countries) of entities actively supporting developing countries on transparency issues. The network serves as a platform to exchange information, lessons learned and experiences in engaging with and assisting developing countries and promote coordination and collaboration among support providers. Further, RCCs have been actively engaging with countries in their region, including RCC Dubai, who shared experiences from Africa and the Middle East as part of United Kingdom initiatives on COP26 Catalyst Action Group on Capacity Building for Transparency and Reporting, and supported the organization of a series of virtual regional training workshops on facilitating the transitioning to the Enhanced Transparency Framework.



C H A P T E R 6

LOOKING AHEAD

AMBITION

2022 is a critical year with regard to mitigation and adaptation action. The outcomes of COP 26 signalled a shift from negotiations and setting targets to implementing actions and raising ambition further. Countries need to submit more ambitious short-term and long-term climate action plans to cut GHG emissions and enhance their resilience. The finalization of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report in 2022 will be an important step in building the foundation for the work under the UNFCCC, including the global stocktake. The secretariat will be supporting work taking place to pave the way for a decision on the mitigation work programme at COP 27 and a strong political message from the ministerial high-level round table on ambition. The secretariat will also be supporting work on achieving progress under the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation.

The global stocktake will review the implementation of the Paris Agreement by assessing collective progress towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Agreement. The secretariat supports the global stocktake to ensure opportunities for effective participation and contribute to a common understanding of global efforts and priority actions to enhance national ambition and international cooperation.

The efforts to engage a broad coalition of non-Party stakeholders in support of the Parties' work to implement the Paris Agreement will

be scaled up by the contribution of the high-level champions, through UNFCCC partnerships with United Nations organizations and other stakeholders, as well as through the secretariat's support to sectoral initiatives in fashion, sports and tourism. In this regard, it will be equally important to follow up and support the implementation of the commitments made by non-Party stakeholders at previous COPs. The global climate action portal will remain the main reference for tracking and reporting non-Party stakeholder commitments and actions, with additional functionalities and data to be added in 2022.

Also significant is the effort to increase the engagement of non-Party stakeholders in countries where they are not well engaged in climate action. Connecting the implementation structure established under the Convention and the Paris Agreement with voluntary action by non-Party stakeholders can enhance both ambition and delivery against commitments made. Access to education, training, access to information and public participation are particularly critical and should be scaled up under the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment, including by supporting youth's contribution to climate action effectively.

The secretariat will be organizing a regional workshop on matters related to response measures in 2022.

IMPLEMENTATION



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With emphasis shifting to implementation, the secretariat will continue working across the United Nations system and with a broader stakeholder group to mobilize partners for supporting action driven by NDC and LT-LEDS. In 2022, further details of the implementation of Article 6 need

to be completed, and rules for the transitioning of existing projects to the new system under Article 6 delivered. The bodies that supervise the clean development mechanism and the new mechanism under Article 6, paragraph 4, will meet during the year to discuss these matters.

Science demonstrates the growing urgency for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage. In 2022, the secretariat will continue to catalyse support to assist the implementation of the rolling workplan of the Warsaw International Mechanism, to support the further implementation of the Santiago network for technical assistance and the launch of the Glasgow Dialogue.

Also in 2022, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group will continue to focus on supporting countries in producing their NAPs and providing technical assistance in accessing funding for the formulation and implementation of programmes and projects identified in the NAPs. This focus is strengthened by the new 10-year mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group achieved at COP 26. The Group will focus on delivering its key mandate of supporting countries in advancing NAPs, the central vehicle for adaptation planning and implementation under the Convention.

The secretariat is working to support the Adaptation Committee in enhancing its reach and impact in 2022, including through an upgraded communications strategy, the Adaptation Forum, Committee inputs to the global stocktake, mandates from the CMA on adaptation-related methodologies, a synthesis report on recognition of adaptation efforts of developing countries, and technical papers on monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions and outcomes. Enhanced collaboration with leading experts and organizations, including with Working Group II to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, will strengthen the technical work of the Committee.

The TEC and the Climate Technology Centre and Network successfully

delivered their joint activity on NDCs and technology. Both bodies aim to strengthen their collaboration in 2022 and beyond. However, the resources for implementing all proposed joint activities remain a challenge.

The secretariat will collaborate with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Future Cleantech Architects and other partners to contribute to the ARC – Cleantech Innovation Festival. Events such as this are promising avenues to showcase innovations in climate technologies.

The TEC will develop its five-year rolling workplan for implementation in 2023–2027. There are opportunities for the TEC to explore new areas of work within the mandate of the technology framework. The secretariat will continue supporting the TEC in its work.

A priority for capacity-building in 2022 is providing continued support to the PCCB in implementing its workplan for 2021–2024. The secretariat will continue to provide quality and holistic support to the Committee across all areas of work, including activities at the regional level. Another priority will be to consider linkages between capacity-building activities and the work on Action for Climate Empowerment with a view to using synergies and avoiding duplication of work.

Three e-learning products are being developed with the aim of building capacity among policymakers, government officials, members of constituted bodies, representatives of Parties and non-Party stakeholders; focusing on compliance and implementation under the Paris Agreement and law and governance approaches under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement; and providing a guide for participants in the UNFCCC process.

Work under the Nairobi work programme in 2022 will focus on building long-term strategic engagement with its partners (including thematic expert groups and Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative subregional partners), UNFCCC national focal points and UNFCCC constituted bodies to catalyse and scale up adaptation actions. The work will focus on developing and implementing a coherent and systematic approach to monitor and evaluate actions and impacts on knowledge users.

The Glasgow Conference marked the start of post-2025 climate finance discussions, and climate finance will continue to be a crucial issue for continued support for Parties by the secretariat at the intergovernmental,

regional and national levels. Mobilization and delivery of climate finance to developing countries will remain a priority at the intergovernmental level. Discussion on the mobilization will be underpinned by achieving the USD 100 billion goal, which will be guided by Parties' consideration of this issue until 2027, and by setting a new collective quantified goal. This goal will be supported by four technical expert dialogues per year through 2023. In parallel with these high-level deliberations on the long-term global goal for financial mobilization, the secretariat will support Parties to work towards replenishing climate funds that developing countries can use in the short to medium term.



Support will be provided to the Standing Committee on Finance in 2022 to deliver on its mandates to prepare for the fifth biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows and on the new mandates from COP 26, which include a progress report on the USD 100 billion goal and reports on definitions of climate finance and mapping of Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement. The secretariat will continue to implement the Needs-based Finance project to support developing countries, as Parties at COP 26 extended the mandate for the project. The secretariat will continue to work closely with national and regional partners and other financial institutions to plan for contingencies and progress towards facilitating mobilization and access to financial support for developing countries.

The Facilitative Working Group is already planning for the implementation of the second three-year workplan of the LCIPP. The new workplan provides inclusive spaces including gatherings, round-table dialogues and thematic training

workshops, to amplify the voices of indigenous peoples and local communities. The workplan also dedicates activities to strengthen the engagement of the knowledge, perspectives and values of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of constituted bodies across the UNFCCC process. The LCIPP will welcome a new group of members of the Facilitative Working Group in 2022 to take on the leadership role and to unlock sustainable and resilient ways to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement, by weaving together diverse ways of knowing and guiding the global community to reorient how it interacts with nature.

At COP 26 governments strengthened ocean-based action under the UNFCCC multilateral process. The secretariat will support relevant work programmes and constituted bodies in considering how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in their existing mandates and workplans, to report on these activities within the existing reporting processes, and to organize an annual ocean and climate change dialogue.

ACCOUNTABILITY

With the negotiations at COP 26 finished, 2022 has become the year of implementation of the ETF. The secretariat will engage Parties and all stakeholders on a political and technical level to prepare for universal participation in the ETF. This engagement will include a combination of high-level dialogues, training events, webinars, townhall

meetings and a communications campaign. In preparation for reporting under the ETF, the secretariat has initiated the scoping and design of the new reporting tools. Following the outcome on transparency at the Glasgow Conference, timely and adequate availability of financial resources is key to the complete development of the ETF.



Let us rise to the enormous challenge of our times, this pivotal point in history – and achieve success for not just our present generation, but all generations to come.

PATRICIA ESPINOSA,
UN CLIMATE CHANGE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Parties that are working together already to deliver their NDCs with cooperative approaches will start to provide the details of those approaches through reports, and those reports will be reviewed. The details will be made available on a public interface on the UNFCCC website.

The secretariat has almost completed the process of overhauling the UNFCCC capacity-building portal with a view to transforming it into a one-stop shop for pertinent information on capacity-building under the Convention. The enhanced capacity-building portal is expected to go online in the first quarter of 2022.

In the light of greater demand from observer organizations to participate in COP, the secretariat will work toward finding solutions to facilitate a more inclusive participation in the context of the era of Paris Agreement implementation.

PAVING THE WAY FOR A STRONGER GLOBAL RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The vision of the UNFCCC for 2022 is to build on the successes at the Glasgow Conference and support Parties in strengthening the global response to climate change. The pledges made by Parties in the run-up to COP 26 are strong, yet there is still a gap in achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and speed of implementation is vital. Finance needs to be mobilized, and adaptation and resilience ambition increased. Climate action must remain at the forefront of the global agenda and deliver ambitious solutions. The urgency for action is evident, and the UNFCCC will continue to work alongside Parties to raise ambition, implement action and be accountable.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE TRUST FUND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES 2021

Parties (A-Z)	Non-parties (A-Z)
Austria	Bloomberg Philanthropies
Belgium	Citibank N.A.
Canada	Companhia de Saneamento Basico do Estado de Sao Paulo
Estonia	Global Center on Adaptation Foundation
European Union	Iberdrola SA
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Norway	
Republic of Korea	
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REVENUE BY TRUST FUND

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

37 Core budget

23 Clean
Development
Mechanism

16¹

6²

2³

2⁴

1⁵

¹ Supplementary

² ZHF plus other (Special account for contributions from Parties hosting COP and the host of the secretariat)

³ Special annual contribution

⁴ Participation

⁵ International Transaction Log

87 TOTAL

2 0 2 1 F I N A N C I A L P E R F O R M A N C E

EXPENDITURE BY TRUST FUND

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

36 Core budget**17** Clean
Development
Mechanism**16**¹**7**²**4**³**2**⁴**1**⁵¹ Supplementary² ZHF plus other Special account for contributions from Parties hosting COP and the host of the secretariat)³ Participation⁴ Special annual contribution⁵ International Transaction Log

83 TOTAL

EXPENDITURE BY CATEGORY

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

47 Staff

20¹

9²

5³

1⁴

- ¹ Contractual services
- ² Operating and Other Expenses
- ³ Travel
- ⁴ Depreciation/Amortization

83 TOTAL

Abbreviations and acronyms

Annex I Party	<i>Party included in Annex I to the Convention</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>
ETF	<i>enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement</i>
GHG	<i>greenhouse gas</i>
IPCC	<i>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</i>
LCIPP	<i>Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform</i>
LT-LEDS	<i>long-term low-emission development strategy(ies)</i>
MRV	<i>measurement, reporting and verification</i>
NAP	<i>national adaptation plan</i>
NDC	<i>nationally determined contribution</i>
non-Annex I Party	<i>Party not included in Annex I to the Convention</i>
PCCB	<i>Paris Committee on Capacity-building</i>
RCC	<i>regional collaboration centre</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>
SBI	<i>Subsidiary Body for Implementation</i>
SBSTA	<i>Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice</i>
TEC	<i>Technology Executive Committee</i>

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