



Meeting report n. 12

Twelfth meeting of the IBC on Environment and Climate Change

31 May 2023 (10:00–11:30 CET)

The objective of this meeting was to give an update on IBC activities conducted during the first trimester of 2023 and share plans for the second half of 2023. The members were asked to identify their possible role in organizing the planned IBC workshop in Istanbul in the autumn to support UNCTs in priority areas. The meeting was opened and moderated by Ana Luiza M. Thompson-Flores, IBC co-chair and Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Marco Keiner, Director, UNECE Environment Division; Sylvie Motard, UNEP Regional Office. 11 IBC members were represented: ILO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN-Women, and WMO.

Results of the RCP meeting organized in March were presented by Michael Kunz, UNECE and RCP secretariat. The work of the IBC on Environment and Climate Change was recognized by the RCs. It is key to explore how to take global commitments to the regional and country level. There is a need for support from the IBC on data and statistics on environment for measuring the SDGs. The capacity building activities at the subregional and country level are appreciated and should be planned in the future. The support on advocacy and addressing political issues for the countries is needed too. The SDG summit in September will mobilize countries to present national initiatives on transformational action for accelerating the SDGs.

The Review of the IBC workplan for 2023 was presented by Jonathan Baker, UNESCO. 6 main priorities were introduced: follow-up to previous cross-cutting work, climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, transboundary activities on water, and cross-cutting activities such as the Istanbul workshop.

The Results of the Meeting between RCs and the IBC core team organized on the margins of the RFSD 2023 were introduced by Sara Radnaaragchaa, UNECE. It was a very good meeting and IBC received a lot of positive feedback from DCO and RCs. The DCO Regional Director noted that IBCs are supposed to provide tailored support to the country teams and that the IBC's responsiveness to demands will be assessed at the end of 2023. Several RCs highlighted trade-offs in climate change and just transition, notably exploring the long-term solutions as key topics. The tailored support on air pollution by the IBC was appreciated by the RC in Serbia, who also noted it is important to achieve a higher representation for this region in COP 27 through the support of the UN. Some RCs highlighted the importance of transboundary issues to be prioritized by the IBC. The RC in Azerbaijan requested an event focusing on transboundary water cooperation in South Caucasus. The RC in BiH raised her concerns over nuclear dump issue from the side of Croatia which calls for further support.

Country specific requests was introduced by Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE. UNCTs had requested support from IBCs through a DCO survey. Three of these requests were specific to asking for



support from this IBC. The core team followed up on the three requests. Georgia and Turkmenistan UNCTs confirmed their requests for which webinars were being arranged. IBC members including OHCHR, UNDRR, ILO, FAO and UNICEF were to speak at a webinar on the nexus of climate action and LNOB for the Georgia UNCT on 5 June 2023. OHCHR, UNDRR, UNDP and UNICEF were to speak at a webinar on disability inclusive climate change adaptation and DRR, and UNESCO and UNECE on green schools, for Turkmenistan UNCT on 21 June 2023. The events would be recorded. It was suggested that the requests needed to be specific, actionable and routed properly. The meeting also recognized the difficulty of resourcing a response.

Water management (Central Asia) was presented by Sonja Koeppel, UNECE, co-lead of the Task Team on water management. In response to the request by the RC in Tajikistan, an informal discussion on water cooperation between RCs and UNCTs in Central Asia and UN agencies was organized. Internationally recognized data are crucial; it is important to cooperate with other partners outside the UN system. IBC support is important in helping implement the voluntary commitments on water cooperation made at the UN Water Conference towards the achievement of the SDGs. The mapping exercises were conducted thanks to the inputs from several UN agencies. As a next step, the water task team will prepare a short summary for different agencies' areas. Further discussion with the RCs to tailor the demands is needed in response to the request from the RC in Azerbaijan on organizing an event on transboundary water cooperation in South Caucasus.

Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction was presented by Sari Lappi, WMO and Andrew Mackay Bower, UNDRR. The IBC could be used as a tool for engagement in the Early Warning Global Initiative. UN days related to DRR should be used as international advocacy milestones for organizing the webinars. The joint work of UNDRR and UNDP outreaching to the RCs on the midterm review of Sendai Framework could be considered as a possible indirect contribution to the IBC work. The country engagement and cross cutting thematic development should be continued. The report of State of the Climate in Europe outlining the status of climate and climate impacts will be launched in June in Dublin in connection with the climate change adaptation conference. The IBC members are encouraged to contribute to the report and attend the conference.

A post-COP 15 biodiversity briefing for UNCTs was introduced by Matt Billot, UNEP. The global biodiversity framework for action was established as the key outcome of the COP 15 CBD, with 23 targets to be accomplished by 2030 and 4 global goals to be achieved by 2050. It calls for a whole of government and whole of society approach. A webinar targeting RCs and UNCTs was scheduled for June. A save-the-date message will be sent soon. UNEP, UNESCO, UNECE, ILO, FAO and UNDP expressed interest to participate in the initiative.

IBC workshop in Istanbul to support UNCTs in priority areas: the conceptual and thematic focus of the workshop was presented by Marika Palosaari, UNEP. The workshop will build on green transition and mainstreaming guidance trainings that were delivered. Various expertise will be mobilized for the webinar, co-led by UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO and UNDP. The workshop



is expected to improve a common understanding of the green transition and integrate good practices on environment and climate change in the UN development agenda and national policies. Just transition, as a key topic, has been planned with UNICEF, ILO and UN Women. A preliminary concept note was developed and will be finalized and shared soon.

The September 2023 event by FAO for countries on COP 28 was introduced by Jeremy Schlickerrieder and Evetta Zenina from FAO. The climate workshop in 2023 will focus on preparing for COP 28, NDC Partnership (to be presented by UNFCCC), loss and damage, countries sharing experience on climate action, finance, gender, etc.

During the following **general discussion** on the Istanbul workshop, WMO proposed the early warning initiative, greenhouse gas monitoring; and UNOPS commented on expanding the NDC Partnership. The IBC welcomed feedback from the UN agencies on the concept note. The human rights perspective (with the engagement of OHCHR) could be interesting.

List of Annexes:

- Annex 1: Meeting agenda
- Annex 2: Meeting presentation
- Annex 3: IBC workplan 2023 v3
- Annex 4: draft concept IBC Istanbul workshop
- Annex 5: DCO survey for 2023 IBC Env and CC responses
- Annex 6: summary report of the First retreat of IBC



Final agenda

Twelfth meeting of the IBC on Environment and Climate Change

31 May 2023 (10:00–11:30 CET)

Background

The United Nations Inter-Agency Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia was established in March 2020. The IBC consists of 18 members from the UN family: FAO, ILO, IOM, ITU, OHCHR, UN Habitat, UN Women, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP, WHO and WMO. For more information about the IBC and its previous meetings, please visit the website.¹

In this meeting the IBC co-leads will give an update on IBC activities conducted during the first trimester of 2023 and share plans for the second half of 2023. The members will be asked to identify their possible role in organising the IBC workshop to support UNCTs in priority areas.

Provisional agenda

10:00 – 10:10	Welcome and opening addresses, including meeting objectives – by Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, IBC co-Chair
10:10 – 10:15	RCP update, by Michael Kunz, UNECE
10:15 – 11:00	IBC priorities and workplan in 2023 – moderation by Marco Keiner, IBC co-Chair and Director of UNECE Environment Division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review of the submitted workplan for 2023, by Jonathan Baker, UNESCO ○ Meeting with RCs during the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development and understanding of the current landscape at UN level, including regional perspective, by Sara Radnaaragchaa, UNECE • Update on the progress by thematic areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Country specific requests, by Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE ○ Water management (Central Asia), Sonja Koeppel, UNECE, co-lead of the Task Team on water management ○ Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction, by Andrew Mackay Bower, UNDRR, and Sara Lappi, WMO ○ Post-COP15 biodiversity briefing for UNCTs, by Matt Billot, UNEP <p><i>Moderator will invite reflections from all IBC members.</i></p>

¹Info <https://uneuropecentralasia.org/en/ibc-environmental-coalition>

Email Regional.Bureau-SC@unesco.org



11:00 – 11:20	IBC workshop to support UNCTs in priority areas – moderation UNEP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the conceptual and thematic focus of the workshop, by Marika Palosaari, UNEP • Description of September 2023 event by FAO for countries on COP28, by FAO <i>General discussion on contributing to the workshop and its themes.</i>
11:20 – 11:30	Conclusions and next steps – by Marco Keiner, IBC co-Chair

Meeting documents:

- IBC workplan 2023
- Results of DCO survey of UNCT requests
- Draft concept for the Istanbul workshop
- Report of the of the IBC retreat held in January 2023.



Issue-based Coalition on Environment & Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia

12th membership meeting

31 May 2023 (online)

10:00–11:30 CET



Agenda

10:00 – 10:10	Welcome and opening addresses , including meeting objectives – by Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, IBC co-Chair
10:10 – 10:15	RCP update , by Michael Kunz, UNECE
10:15 – 11:00	IBC priorities and workplan in 2023 – moderation by Marco Keiner, IBC co-Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review of the submitted workplan for 2023, by Jonathan Baker, UNESCO ○ Meeting with RCs during the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development and understanding of the current landscape at UN level, including regional perspective, by Sara Radnaaragchaa, UNECE • Update on the progress by thematic areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Country specific requests, by Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE ○ Water management (Central Asia), Sonja Koepfel, UNECE, co-lead of Task Team on water management ○ Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction, by Andrew Mackay Bower, UNDRR, and Sari Lappi, WMO ○ Post-COP15 biodiversity briefing for UNCTs, by Matt Billot, UNEP <p><i>Moderator will invite reflections from all IBC members.</i></p>
11:00 – 11:20	IBC workshop to support UNCTs in priority areas – moderation UNEP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the conceptual and thematic focus of the workshop, by Marika Palosaari, UNEP • Description of September 2023 event by FAO for countries on COP28, by FAO <p><i>General discussion on contributing to the workshop and its themes.</i></p>
11:20 – 11:30	Conclusions and next steps – by Marco Keiner, IBC co-Chair



Meeting objectives

- The purpose of the meeting is to give an update on IBC activities conducted during the first trimester of 2023 and share plans for the second half of 2023.
- The members will be asked to identify their possible role in organising the IBC workshop to support UNCTs in priority areas.



Welcome session



RCP update

Michael Kunz, UNECE



IBC priorities and workplan in 2023

Review of the submitted workplan for 2023, by Jonathan Baker, UNESCO

Overview of activities planned for 2023

Follow-up to previous cross-cutting work

- Application of the Mainstreaming guidance, lessons learned
- Green transition training: targeted capacity building just transition (webinar)

Climate change

- Series of CC and DRR Task Team activities for 2023, including COP27 follow-up
- Technical guidance to UNCTs to support COP28 preparation

Biodiversity loss

- COP15 follow-up – Global Biodiversity Framework (webinar June 2023 TBD)

Pollution: task team available to support interested RCOs/UNCTs on action on air pollution from domestic heating and related topics

Transboundary: Water: dialogue on water cooperation in Central Asia

Cross-cutting:

- Turkmenistan event on Sustainable Food Systems (with IBC sustainable foods)
- Workshop with RG co-chairs and RCO/UNCT members (Istanbul workshop)



IBC priorities and workplan in 2023

Meeting with RCs during the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development and understanding of the current landscape at UN level, including regional perspective, by Sara Radnaaragchaa, UNECE



IBC priorities and workplan in 2023

Country specific requests, by Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE

- Requests expressed in a DCO survey at start of 2023
- IBC can be reactive to requests – real “issues”



Country	Source	Request	Response
Georgia	Head RCO	UNCT training, ideally in-person, on nexus of climate action and LNOB to enable UN entities working with vulnerable groups to assess who is particularly vulnerable to effects of climate change and environmental degradation and how to help address	Source confirmed. OHCHR, UNDRR, ILO, FAO and UNICEF?) to speak. Introductory webinar on the nexus of climate action & LNOB, 5 June 2023, 13:30-15:00 CET
Turkmenistan	Education	(a) Digitalization of CCA (climate change adaptation) and DRR curriculum & training materials (b) Expertise to develop adapted disability inclusive CCA and DRR materials (c) Innovation solutions in framework of “ Green School ” strengthening resilience of schoolchildren and adolescent of Turkmenistan towards climate change impacts	(a) Reached out to Digital Transformation Group to make connection (b)-(c) Source confirmed. UNICEF, OHCHR, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE and UNESCO ready to speak. Webinar planned for second half of June 2023



Country	Source	Request	Response
Kazakhstan	RG Prosperity and Planet	Share information on innovative approaches in addressing cross-country and cross-regional environmental challenges	Followed up with source. No response. But something we try to do anyway
Moldova	RCO	More exchange of experiences between countries would be useful. Request to multiple IBCs	No specific request. No action taken
Montenegro	RC	Additional capacity building and knowledge sharing expertise will be needed. Request to multiple IBCs	No specific request. No action taken



IBC priorities and workplan in 2023

Country specific requests, by Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE

- “Difficult to attend to these types of country-specific requests”, with limited resources and a lack of clarity at the start
- How should they be routed and handled?



IBC priorities and workplan in 2023

Water management (Central Asia), Sonja Koeppel, UNECE, co-lead of the Task Team on water management



IBC priorities and workplan in 2023

Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction, by Andrew Mackay Bower, UNDRR, and Sari Lappi, WMO



IBC priorities and workplan in 2023

Post-COP15 biodiversity briefing for UNCTs, by Matt Billot, UNEP





Reflections from all IBC members



IBC workshop to support UNCTs in priority areas

Presentation of the conceptual and thematic focus of the workshop, by
Marika Palosaari, UNEP



IBC workshop to support UNCTs in priority areas

Target audience:

Result Group (co-)Chairs, relevant RCO staff, UNDP country office Environment focal points, who are engaged in environment, climate change and green transition.

Date and venue; 11-13 September 2023 (tbc), Istanbul (Türkiye), hotel tbc.

Co-lead by UNECE, UNECE, UNEP and UNESCO

Objectives:

to strengthen the capacity of the RCOs and UNCTs in the European and Central Asia region in mainstreaming and effectively integrating environment and climate into UN country programming and to foster learning and regional exchange.



IBC workshop to support UNCTs in priority areas

Themes and topics:

The Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), just green transition, energy transition and climate negotiations (Climate COPs 28 and 29), financing for climate and biodiversity.

The workshop will serve as a platform to share and discuss global and regional outlooks and good practices on climate, biodiversity and energy that can guide the planning for future work.

Expected outcomes:

Improved common understanding of the challenges related to green transition, the tools and mechanisms available for advancing it and best practices for integrating green transition into UN country programming

Strengthened capacity of the RCOs and UNCTs in integrating good practices on environment and climate change in the UN development agenda and programming and in the national policies.



IBC workshop to support UNCTs in priority areas

Next steps:

Finalization of the concept and development of the programme. Identification of the roles of IBC member organizations;

How can your organization contribute? Topics, speakers, content preparation?



IBC workshop to support UNCTs in priority areas

Description of September 2023 event by FAO for countries on COP28, by FAO



General discussion on contributing to the workshop and its themes



Conclusions and next steps

Regional Collaborative Platform in Europe and Central Asia
IBC on Environment and Climate Change: Work Plan 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023

A. Strategic vision statement <i>The Regional Collaborative Platform in Europe and Central Asia aims at fostering regional cooperation among the entities of the regional UN Development System to provide solutions to the common sustainable development challenges of the countries in the region. It aims at joining forces and using synergies in offering different modalities of support, including at the regional and country level, for achieving the shared goals of these countries. Our particular regional value-added is bringing together our expertise and other assets to provide the best support to countries, to scale up common solutions and to mobilize global, regional, and national actors to address common issues in support of accelerated action for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</i>							
Results area	Action / Activity	Timeline				Responsible Parties	Lead agency and contact person
Region-specific success indicators for the result area	(to be defined at the level of the RCP)						
1. RCP and IBCs	1.3 IBCs and other inter-agency coordination groups						
	1.3.4 IBC on Environment and Climate Change	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	IBC on Environment and Climate Change	
	Pillar I: Strengthening environmental and climate change governance and implementing the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda The priority issues for 2023 are climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (triple planetary crisis), and follow-up on mainstreaming guidance and green transition.						
	• Climate change						
	○ A series of climate change & DRR events and guidance notes for use by UNCTs on early warning systems,					Climate Change & DRR Task Team, ILO	Natalia Berghi (WMO)

Commented [MC1]: ILO can contribute to activities related to 'energy' with the focus on Just Energy Transition and the impact on labour markets. Please add me to the task team.

Regional Collaborative Platform in Europe and Central Asia
IBC on Environment and Climate Change: Work Plan 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023

	adaptation, energy, finance and the Sendai Framework						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical guidance to UNCTs to support their work with Governments preparing for the COP 28 					All	Marianna Bolshakova (UNEP)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity loss <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Webinar on outcomes of COP 15 and guidance on incorporating the Global Biodiversity Framework into country level work 					Biodiversity Task Team (& CBD)	Jonathan Baker (UNESCO) & Matthew Billot (UNEP)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replication of prior support to individual UNCTs for action on air pollution from domestic heating and related topics 					Air Pollution Task Team	Tomas Marques (UNEP) & Dorota Jarosinska (WHO)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transboundary and cross-sectoral <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialogue on water cooperation in Central Asia (among RCs/UNCTs and IBC) 	17/2				Water Task Team & Central Asia RCs, ILO	Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa (UNECE)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of environment and climate considerations in the international conference on Sustainable Food Systems organized by Turkmenistan, being led by RC Turkmenistan and IBC Sustainable Food systems 					All with IBC on Sustainable Food Systems	Marika Paloosari (UNEP)

Commented [MC2]: The ILO can contribute to this activity. Please add me to the Water Task Team.

Commented [MC3R2]: ILO's contribution will be on Just Transition and green jobs.

Regional Collaborative Platform in Europe and Central Asia
IBC on Environment and Climate Change: Work Plan 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023

	Pillar II: Supporting the environmental and climate change dimension of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and Common Country Analysis (CCA) processes					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstreaming guidance: CCA process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to update CCAs on request Gather lessons learned on CCA process vis-à-vis environment and climate change 				All	Nicholas Bonvoisin (UNECE)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green transitions – operationalization through targeted capacity building (including a just transition and green jobs promotion, addressing vulnerable groups and gender just transition) 				All	Just transition webinar: Maria Osbeck (UNICEF)
	Pillar III: Monitoring and reporting on the environmental and climate change dimension of SDGs					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributions to the RCP website to populate all relevant information for the IBC for transparency and use by the RCs and UNCTs. 				IBC Core team/ All	Nicholas Bonvoisin (UNECE) & Francesca Bampa (UNESCO)
	Cross-cutting					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBC Retreat – workplan 2023 				All	IBC core team
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop with Result Group Chairs and RCO Economists and Partnership Officers, which will include above-mentioned capacity development on COP 15, COP 28 preparations and green transitions 				IBC Core team	IBC core team

Regional Collaborative Platform in Europe and Central Asia
IBC on Environment and Climate Change: Work Plan 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of communication material including 'one pager' summaries and a video presenting the tools and resources developed by the IBC. 					IBC Core team?	?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporation of gender and youth considerations into the activities of the IBC 					Gender and Youth Advisory group (UNICEF, UN Women, UNESCO)	?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Forum on Sustainable Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Side-event – Early Warnings for All 					All, or Task Team on Climate and DRR	Side event: Sara Lappi (WMO)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular IBC membership meetings (including a substantive discussion on a selected topic) 					All	IBC core team

Commented [MC4]: could I suggest we discuss how the IBC can contribute to industrial policy green reform of a couple of industry sectors relevant for the region: energy and textile & garments.



Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change Workshop 2023

11-13 September 2023 (tbc), Istanbul (Türkiye), hotel tbc.

DRAFT CONCEPT

Background

The United Nations Inter-Agency Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia was established in March 2020. The primary purpose of the IBC is to support UN Country Teams in their assistance to programme countries. The IBC consists of 18 members¹ from the UN family. Building on the IBC's Mainstreaming guidance and Green Transitions training, the two-and-a-half-day workshop will provide a deep dive into three thematic priorities: climate change, green transition and biodiversity. It will also explore joint programming as a tool for a more integrated approach to addressing these and other issues. The target audience of the workshop are Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs), primarily: Result Group (co-)Chairs, relevant RCO staff, who are engaged in environment, climate change and green transition. A total of 50-60 participants are envisaged at this stage.

Objectives of the workshop

The main objective of the IBC workshop is to strengthen the capacity of the RCOs and UNCTs in the European and Central Asia region in mainstreaming and effectively integrating environment and climate into UN country programming and to jointly implement programmes. This includes developing capacity in joint programming on topics such as transboundary natural resources management, just green transition, financing for climate and biodiversity and incorporating the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) into country level work. In the aftermath of last year's 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and considering the upcoming Climate COPs 28 and 29, the workshop will focus on energy transition and climate negotiations ahead of the Climate COPs. Furthermore, the workshop will serve as a platform to share and discuss global and regional outlooks on climate, biodiversity and energy that can guide the planning for future work.

Expected outcomes

The 2023 IBC workshop will strengthen the capacity of the RCOs and UNCTs in integrating environment and climate change in the UN development agenda and programming in general and in their respective national policies. This demands an improved common understanding of the challenges related to green transition, the tools and mechanisms available for advancing it and best practice sharing regarding its integration into UN country programming. The workshop will thus foster the skills of RCOs and UNCTs in joint programming and its benefits in implementing the 2030 Agenda together and facilitate exchange of experiences between RCOs and UNCTs.

¹ FAO, ILO, IOM, ITU, OHCHR, UN Habitat, UN Women, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP, WHO and WMO.

IBC on Environment and Climate Change

Responding to requests made in the early 2023 DCO survey of UNCT needs

Individual submissions for consideration for RCP workplan

Country	RC/Results Group	Contact:
Georgia	RC/UNCT	anna.platonova@un.org
Thematic Area	Type of support	Proposed method
Environment and Climate Change;	Training and capacity building in thematic area	Webinar/online meetings; In-person support;
Issue to be addressed		Timeframe
We would be interested in conducting a UNCT training, ideally in-person, on the nexus of climate action and LNOB to enable UN entities working with vulnerable groups to assess who is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and environmental degradation and how to help address these challenges.		Q2 or Q3 2023
Other comments:		
Comments by RCP secretariat:	Recommend IBC Environment and Climate Change to reach out to discuss possible support.	
Comments by IBC Env and Climate Change	Followed up with UNCT Georgia and IBC members. Webinar being organized with at least 4 IBC members to speak.	

Country	RC/Results Group	Contact:
Kazakhstan	Prosperity and Planet - Inclusive Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability	dosbol.tursumuratov@undp.org
Thematic Area	Type of support	Proposed method
Environment and Climate Change;	Cross country/regional experience sharing;	Webinar/online meetings;
Issue to be addressed		Timeframe
Share information on innovative approaches in addressing cross-country and cross-regional environmental challenges		01-06-2023
Other comments:		
Comments by RCP secretariat:	Recommend IBC Enc and CC to facilitate sharing of approaches in addressing cross-country and cross-regional environmental challenges	
Comments by IBC Env and Climate Change	Followed up with Kazakhstan. No response from contact.	

Country	RC/Results Group	Contact:
Moldova	RC/UNCT	laura.fiorotto@un.org
Thematic Area	Type of support	Proposed method
Environment and Climate Change; Large Movement of People Displacement, and Resilience; SDG Data and Statistics; Business efficiencies and OMT;	Analytical support, data and diagnostics; Temporary deployment of expertise; Cross country/regional experience sharing; Support to BOS implementation and innovations;	Webinar/online meetings; Production of knowledge product; In-person support;
Issue to be addressed		Timeframe
More exchange of experiences between countries would be useful. However, they need to be tailored to the audience and ensuring challenges and best practices are mentioned; Additional support could be provided for project formulation to the different groups; In person meetings in the countries could allow joint work to identify gaps and opportunities for joint programming; It would also be good to set up a regional system where IBC co-chairs also work via their		01-06-2023

agency representatives in country to also highlight the IBC's and what they can deliver and support on.	
Other comments:	
Comments by RCP secretariat:	RCP secretariat to continue supporting increased awareness of the support available by the regional system and encourage the IBC co-chairs to also share information via agency reps. Experience exchanges between countries to be supported on demand.
Comments by IBC Env and Climate Change	No specific request. No action taken by IBC Env and Climate Change.

Country	RC/Results Group	Contact:
Montenegro	RC	ana.zec@un.org
Thematic Area	Type of support	Proposed method
Environment and Climate Change; Gender Equality; Large Movement of People Displacement, and Resilience; Social Protection; SDG Data and Statistics;	Analytical support, data and diagnostics; Cross country/regional experience sharing; Mainstreaming of global agendas and inter-governmental processes;	Webinar/online meetings; Production of knowledge product; In-person support;
Issue to be addressed		Timeframe
As we are onboarding new UNSDCF, all these topics have been recognized as a priority, and additional capacity building and knowledge sharing expertise will be needed in order to strengthen in-house capacities.		01-12-2023
Other comments:		
Comments by RCP secretariat:	Further clarity and specification on what areas that they are seeing capacity building and advice on is required to enable a response.	
Comments by IBC Env and Climate Change	No specific request. No action taken by IBC Env and Climate Change.	

Country	RC/Results Group	Contact:
Turkmenistan	Education	mfayyazi@unicef.org
Thematic Area	Type of support	Proposed method
Environment and Climate Change;	Analytical support, data and diagnostics; Cross country/regional experience sharing; Mainstreaming of global agendas and inter-governmental processes;	Production of knowledge product; Webinar/online meetings;
Issue to be addressed		Timeframe
Digitalization of the CCA and DRR curriculum and training materials; Expertise to develop adapted disability inclusive CCA and DRR materials; Innovation solutions in the framework of "Green School" strengthening resilience of the schoolchildren and adolescent of Turkmenistan towards climate change impacts.		29-01-2023
Other comments:		
Comments by RCP secretariat:	Recommend Digital Transformation group to reach out to review option to support on: 'Digitalization of the CCA and DRR curriculum and training materials' and Recommend IBC on CC and Env to reach out to discuss type of expertise and support that is needed to review options for provision of support.	
Comments by IBC Env and Climate Change	Followed up with UNCT Turkmenistan, which confirmed the need, and sought support from IBC members about second and third items. Webinar being organized with at least 4 IBC members to speak. Also sent message to Digital Transformation group regarding first item.	



Summary Report

First retreat of IBC on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia

18 January 2023 (10:00–15:30, Geneva & online)

Background

The first retreat of the Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change (IBC) was organized by UNECE, UNESCO and UNEP at the *International Environment House*, Geneva, Switzerland, and online, on 18 January 2023. Building on the co-chairs meeting organized on 17 January 2023 (for the meeting summary see Annex), the retreat focused on reviewing the key outcomes of 2022 and main products, reflecting on the full engagement and ownership of the IBC membership, assessing internal and external working modalities and agreeing on the 2023 priorities and [2023 work plan](#).

Key messages

The IBC activities were delivered in 2022 as planned and the modalities are working well. It was discussed that it would be important to measure the impact of the work of IBC.

We need to **follow up to the work in 2022 such as mainstreaming guidance and green transition training** by focusing on the use or piloting of the mainstreaming guidance and applying the guidance notes and results of the green transition programme. ILO commented that IBC in Asia Pacific did work on **just transition** re phase-out of coal. UNOPS would be willing to assist in bringing action on the ground working with UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and support the follow up on the training programmes (mainstreaming, green transition).

The IBC must be **demand driven** with the good **engagement with DCO, RCOs, UNCTs and the Results Groups (RG)** and adapt to the emerging issues for each year. It was explored how IBC can collect the demands and feedback of the Resident Coordinators (RCs):

- DCO encouraged IBC to reach out to RCs and UNCTs to clarify requests in the questionnaire responses (cc. DCO) and mentioned that RCs appreciate the responsiveness of IBC and of the activities and products. IBC thank DCO for its assistance. DCO can help support the consultations and communications between IBC and RCs
- UNICEF suggested to use IBC to coordinate inputs to RCs or at least to share information.
- It was agreed that an **in-person meeting with RCs and RG chairs** could be organized to hold consultations on their demands of IBC, as well as requests on the scope and thematic focus in the follow up activities on green transition and mainstreaming guidance, notably taking advantage of the occasion of the IBC meeting in Istanbul or RFSD 2023 in Geneva.

The meeting reflected the **communication and outreach plan for 2023**. There is a need to improve the outreach and the visibility of the work of IBC. It was agreed to prepare and concise communication messages, such as **one-pagers on different themes** and on IBC as a whole, or **a short video made by the champions** among RCs on the importance of engagement with IBC. UNICEF commented that a one- or two-pager introduction to IBC would be very helpful.



The meeting mapped the **main outreach opportunities in 2023** including the food system summit follow-up in summer 2023, the SDG summit, the UN Global Water Conference and UNFCCC COP28. WMO commented to consider important events and joint products and a unified voice. UNICEF suggested to put Europe and Central Asia on the agenda and convey common messages from agencies through IBC for COP28. IBC can also build on global events in 2022, COP27 climate change and CBD COP15, to bring results to the countries in the region.

There is a low level of awareness of IBCs and their roles at the country level. The core team could reach out to country level ("country representatives") to increase the country level visibility of IBC.

With regard to the **role of IBC**, UNICEF raised to use of IBC as a collaborative platform in which the entities can coordinate, complemented by a successful example from the work on air pollution in Kyrgyzstan and Serbia to illustrate the good coordination within IBC.

In terms of the **task teams**, the overview for the past year is that the water task team will need to be active, the biodiversity task team needs to be reactivated and the climate change and DRR task team needs to continue to be active. The gender and youth task teams transformed to advisory groups can provide a crosscheck and consultations from the lenses of gender and youth. UN-Women, who led the gender advisory group, and UNICEF, who led the youth advisory group, will lead the process. This was supported by UNICEF and the conclusion was that the shift from task team to advisory group was successful and that **UN-Women should take the lead on gender and UNICEF (or UNESCO, when appropriate) should take the lead on youth.**

The meeting also touched on better coordination with other IBCs to break down silos, based on the discussion among co-chairs on 17 January. It was suggested to reach out to DCO in New York via DCO Regional Office for its support in coordinating the sharing of key products between different IBCs in the environment and climate areas in the five regions to promote peer learning among IBCs.

The meeting was briefed on the discussion on **priorities for the 2023** among the co-chairs on 17 January and presented the proposed priorities for the 2023:

- Follow-up to previous cross-cutting work
 - Mainstreaming guidance
 - Green transition training
- Climate change
 - Task Team proposals for 2023
 - COP27 follow-up/preparation
- Biodiversity loss
 - COP15 follow-up – Global Biodiversity Framework
 - Transboundary ecosystems
- Pollution: Air
- Cross-border, cross-sectoral
 - Water: Central Asia discussions; UN Water Conference
 - Turkmenistan conference on Food Security

The presentation was followed by a broad discussion on the priorities for the 2023 and on the workplan 2023 from the IBC members. The key messages were:



- ILO: contribute to COP28 preparations and on transboundary waters; support green transitions (just transition – event at ILO session in summer 2023); provide input to RFSD.
- UN-Women: propose a gender-just transition/climate change adaptation, in coordination with IBC Gender; support on transboundary waters and diplomacy.
- Core team suggested having a sixth green transition webinar with a focus on just transition, including the gender dimension.
- OHCHR: protection of environmental defenders; UN common approach to pollution; plastic at national level.
- WMO: mid-term review of UN Water Decade.
- UNICEF: work through tasks team on air pollution and on climate change and DRR; contribute to water cooperation activity in workplan; sharing of information between members in IBC membership meetings.

List of actions

- The IBC members preferred 4 membership meetings each year.
- The IBC members are welcome to join core team meetings (on Monday afternoons at 3pm CET) to address any emerging issues with a more flexible mechanism.
- The meeting report will be shared with all IBC members to get their written comments.
- The meeting with RG chairs or RCO Economists will be organized in Istanbul. (DCO to suggest a date.)
- IBC will try to meet RCs in the margins of RFSD 2023.
- IBC will prepare one-pagers on different themes and on IBC itself.
- IBC will prepare a short video of champions among RCs on importance of engagement with IBC.
- IBC will reach out to RG chairs to decode questionnaire responses with DCO in cc.



Annex

Key points discussed on the IBC co-chairs meeting, 17 January 2023

- Key outputs/ outcomes 2022
 - o Mainstreaming guidance
 - o Climate Change messages
 - o RFSD 2022 – Biodiversity
 - o Air pollution work in Serbia
 - o Green transitions training programme
- Need to be systematic in collecting feedback for IBC products and services
- Revisit our consultations with RCs and the use of sub-regional groupings
 - o Possible workshop with RCs and/ or questionnaire
- Mechanisms to follow up after products, services/ tools have been provided
- How to better engage with other IBC members
- Linkages with global events (COPs Water Conference etc)
- Can we use sub-regional platforms (i.e. ICSD)
- We discussed transboundary and cross-sectoral work, sub-regional work and nexus related issues
- Supporting Joint work plans at the results group and UNCT levels
- Collaboration with other regional environment related IBCs (maybe through DCO NY)
- Possible capacity building workshop on Green Transitions for Results groups (design a follow-up process).
- Maybe organize a meeting with RCs for an hour during RFSD 2023
- Follow-up work on mainstreaming guidance (hand-on work with UNCTs) maybe with a focus on CCA revisions/ updates
- How to systematically engage results groups