



Meeting report n. 13

Thirteenth Meeting of the IBC on Environment and Climate Change

21 November 2023 (10:00–11:30 CET) Online

This meeting provided an overview of the IBC activities during the last semester of 2023 and offered an opportunity to brainstorm on the IBC's work plan for 2024. The meeting was opened and moderated by the IBC co-chairs: Magdalena Landry, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe; Marco Keiner, Director of UNECE Environment Division and Arnold Kreilhuber, Regional Director of UNEP Europe Office. 10 IBC member agencies were present: FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN-Women, and WFP.

Marika Palosaari, UNEP, presented the objectives, thematic focuses, and an overview of the outcomes of the [Regional Workshop on Environment and Climate Change Issues in the Implementation of UNSDCFs](#), held in Istanbul on 12-14 September. The workshop aimed at effectively strengthening the capacities of RCOs and UNCTs in integrating climate change, pollution, biodiversity, water management and a just green transition in UNSDCFs against a backdrop of joint programming. The Regional workshop gathered over 100 UN staff from 12 agencies across 15 countries and territories, supported through inputs from six UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) in the region. UNCT and RCO members developed ideas for future collaboration on the ground through joint programming.

Jonathan Baker, UNESCO, presented key outcomes of the webinar [Working Together for a Nature-Positive Transition: Incorporating the Global Biodiversity Framework into UNSDCF Processes](#), held 27 June 2023. The webinar aimed to raise awareness and build capacity of UNCTs to support countries to deliver on the targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework, including through its incorporation into the UNSDCF processes. It had 47 participants from UNCTs and RCOs and IBC member agencies (UNEP, UNESCO, UNECE, ILO, FAO, and UNDP).

Matthew Billot, UNEP, presented the **thematic session n 6** dedicated to **Biodiversity** of the **Istanbul Regional Workshop**. This topic focused on strengthening capacities of RCs and UNCTs in leading the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and achieving the international targets, notably on protected areas, food and livelihoods, financing, and climate change. This session was organized by UNEP, UNDP, and UNESCO with contributions from FAO and ILO.

Sara Radnaaragchaa, UNECE, gave a summary of water related activities conducted in 2023, including the [Informal discussion on water cooperation in Central Asia with RCs and UNCTs](#), 17 February 2023; [the Mapping of UN support on water management in Central Asia](#), August 2023, with inputs by UNECE, UNICEF, UNDRR, UNESCO, UNDP; the IBC's contribution to an Informal inter-agency discussion on achieving water-related SDGs and subsequent establishment of a sub-group on water in Kazakhstan, September 2023; the Istanbul



workshop topics focusing on **Water and Transboundary Water Cooperation**. The Task Team on water management responded to the request from RC in Azerbaijan on organization of an event on Transboundary Water Cooperation in the South Caucasus and IBC core team had an online discussion with the RCs in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to define exact topics for a potential event at subregional level.

Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE, presented IBC's response to **country specific requests** of the DCO survey. A total of five requests mentioned environment and climate changes: Kazakhstan's request was addressed through an IBC water-related event; Georgia's request was responded through an IBC webinar on [the nexus of climate action and LNOB](#) (presentations by OHCHR, FAO, ILO, UNICEF, UNDRR); Turkmenistan's request was responded via an IBC webinar on [disability-inclusive climate change adaptation and DRR materials, and innovative "green schools" solutions](#) (presentations by OHCHR, UNDRR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNECE); two other requests were very broad and covered through IBC general offer of knowledge products and capacity building.

Michael Kunz, RCP secretariat shared with the IBC members the main takeaways from the recent **RCP meeting** held on 6-7 November 2023. The meeting emphasised the need for better environmental preventative actions with strong cooperation to combat the geopolitical situation at the region. Warning that present conflict will not back pedal current advancement on human rights, gender equality, environmental goals, but also constrict any opportunity for advancement through collaboration between UN agencies and others. Noting a shift towards humanitarian and crisis and recovery responses with RCs from Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Türkiye calling for a support on a regional level from RCPs and IBCs.

Lastly, the **Priorities for the IBC workplan 2024** session was opened by Dyfan Jones, DCO who delved into the **Survey of Support Requests for 2024** that was sent October 2023 to all RCOs, UNCTs, and result groups. A total of 60 requests were received, 16 were specific for the IBC on environment and climate change. 4 requests did not have only one directly corresponding IBC, of which 2 were focusing on energy. It is being considered if a new IBC dedicated to energy should be established.

During the **general discussion**, Marianna Bolshakova, **UNEP**, called for the need to concentrate efforts by focusing on two strategic areas in 2024, i) related to the Six Transitions and interlinks with digital transformation and energy ii) offering comprehensive support to the 12 UNCTs starting a new cycle UNSDCFs. Laura Altinger, **UNDP**, suggested the IBC to work more on energy, notably supporting countries implementing SDG7 and energy compacts.

Anna Kanshieva and Jeremy Schlickerieder, **FAO**, pointed out biodiversity, climate change, and food security are being the priorities for FAO, highlighted FAO's strong focus on energy in agriculture, and expressed FAO's readiness to contribute to thematic areas such as biodiversity loss and climate change, interlink between biodiversity and food security, just transition, water related issues and plastics in agriculture.



Maria Osbeck, **UNICEF**, supported the inclusion of energy transition and offer of support for 12 UNCTs starting the preparation of UNSDCFs in the IBC 2024 workplan. Furthermore, she suggested doing a mapping of water related activities in the Western Balkans similar to the mapping which was done for Central Asia. Nick Bonvoisin, **UNECE**, highlighted the need to balance activities around triple planetary crises and to explore how best the IBC could deal with UNCT requests related to energy. Pei Hongye, **ILO**, iterated the need to consider energy, especially energy transition and its effect on employment and to continue working on water topics. She further noted areas of green skills and entrepreneurship, sustainable livelihood and SMEs shall be covered by the IBC. Katrin Lichtenberg, **UNOPS**, referred to global initiatives led by UNOPS such as NDC partnership, energy transition partnership, scale up nutrition and possibility to introduce these partnership and initiatives to countries.

Regarding UNCT requests Dyfan Jones, **DCO**, suggested clustering requests by thematic areas or by subregions. He requested IBC to inform DCO if some of the UNCTs requests could not be responded due to limited capacity.

List of Annexes:

Annex 1: Meeting agenda

Annex 2: Meeting presentation

Annex 3: IBC workplan 2023

Annex 4: Regional groups briefs on 2023 results titled Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change for ECA region



Final Agenda

Thirteenth meeting of the IBC on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia

21 November 2023 (10:00–11:30, Geneva/Venice/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 strategic discussion IBC co-chairs and their teams will give an update on IBC activities conducted during the last semester of 2023. It will also offer an opportunity for members to brainstorm on the IBC workplan for 2024.

Agenda

10:00 – 10:10 [10 min]	Welcome and opening addresses, including meeting objectives – by the three IBC co-Chairs from UNECE, UNESCO, and UNEP.
10:10 – 10:40 [30 min]	<p>Implementation of IBC workplan 2023 and latest developments – moderation by Marco Keiner, IBC co-Chair and Director of UNECE Environment Division.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Istanbul workshop • Biodiversity webinar & water related activities • Responding to UNCT requests <p><i>Moderator will invite reflections from all IBC members.</i></p>
10:40 – 10:50 [10 min]	Updates from the RCP – moderation by Magdalena Landry, IBC co-Chair and Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe
10:50 – 11:25 [30 min]	<p>Priorities for the IBC workplan 2024 - moderation by Magdalena Landry, IBC co-Chair and Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.</p> <p><i>All IBC members are invited to indicate what they see as the key issues for 2024 and how they want to contribute to implementing the workplan.</i></p>
11:25 – 11:30 [5 min]	Conclusions and next steps – by Arnold Kreilhuber, IBC co-Chair and Regional Director of UNEP Europe Office in Geneva.



Meeting documents:

- IBC workplan 2023
- Report of the twelfth meeting of the IBC
- Summary on the 2023 work for RCP Secretariat



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

13th membership meeting

21 November 2023 (online)

10:00–11:30 CET



Agenda

<p>10:00 – 10:10 <i>[10 min]</i></p>	<p>Welcome and opening addresses, including meeting objectives - by the three IBC co-Chairs from UNECE, UNESCO, and UNEP</p>
<p>10:10 – 10:40 <i>[30 min]</i></p>	<p>Implementation of IBC workplan 2023 and latest developments – moderation by Marco Keiner, IBC co-Chair, UNECE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Istanbul workshop (Marika Palosaari, UNEP) • Biodiversity webinar (Jonathan Baker, UNESCO and Matthew Billot, UNEP) & water related activities (Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa, UNECE) • Responding to UNCT requests (Nicholas Bonvoisin, UNECE) <p><i>Moderator will invite reflections from all IBC members</i></p>
<p>10:40 – 10:50 <i>[10 min]</i></p>	<p>Updates from the RCP – by Michael Kunz, UNECE</p>
<p>10:50 – 11:25 <i>[30 min]</i></p>	<p>Priorities for the IBC workplan 2024 – moderation by Magdalena Landry, IBC co-Chair, UNESCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary results of the RCP survey - by Dyfan Jones, DCO <p><i>All IBC members are invited to indicate what they see as the key issues for 2024 and how they want to contribute to implementing the workplan</i></p>
<p>11:25 – 11:30 <i>[5 min]</i></p>	<p>Conclusions and next steps –by Arnold Kreilhuber, IBC co-Chair, UNEP</p>



Welcome session



Implementation of IBC workplan 2023 and latest developments

Moderation by Marco Keiner, IBC co-Chair, UNECE



Istanbul workshop

Marika Palosaari, UNEP



Regional Workshop on Environment and Climate Change Issues in the Implementation of UNSDCFs

Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change
12-14 September 2023, Istanbul, Türkiye



Learning Objectives

- **Improved common understanding of the good practices, challenges and opportunities, and outlooks**
- **Strengthened capacity of the RCOs and UNCTs** in integrating good practices on environment and climate change in key policies and plans
- **Enhanced understanding of the IBC of the current and future needs of RCOs and UNCTs** for mainstreaming and implementing just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all through country and joint programming.



Regional Workshop on Environment and Climate Change Issues in the Implementation of UNSDCFs





Participants:

over 100 UN staff from 12 agencies across 15 countries + Kosovo

UNDCO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

IBC co-chairs and IBC members incl. UNDP, FAO, ILO, UN Women, UNICEF, WMO.

UN Resident coordinators (Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, North Macedonia, Kazakhstan)

RCO and UNCT members including Environment Results Group chairs/ co-chairs

Moderation - IISD

Funding: UNEP/ UNDP



**UN EUROPE &
CENTRAL ASIA**



Workshop topics

DAY 1

Topic 1

UN Coordinated Action

Topic 2

**Climate Change &
Energy**

Topic 3

Air Pollution

Dinner and Networking

DAY 2

Topic 4

**Water including
Transboundary
Cooperation**

Topic 5

**Early Warning Systems
for All**

Topic 6

Biodiversity

DAY 3

Topic 7

**Just Transitions
Towards
Environmentally
Sustainable Economies
and Societies for All**

Closing Session



Interactive and Open Discussion





Outcomes



- **Strengthened inter-agency cooperation** and better **common understanding** of the issues among the UN agencies in the region.
- **Increased skills for integration** of the triple planetary crisis into the UNSDCFs and UN cooperative delivery.
- UNCTs, RCOs as well as regional office teams developed several **ideas for future collaboration**.
- **Identification of ways to jointly prepare** for the Climate COPs and to implement the Global Biodiversity Framework, among other key environmental goals.
- A number of **individual actions to take in follow up** to the workshop.
- Identified **challenges, opportunities and recommendations** for the work at national and regional levels – the IBC team will make use of these in the planning of its future work.



Biodiversity webinar

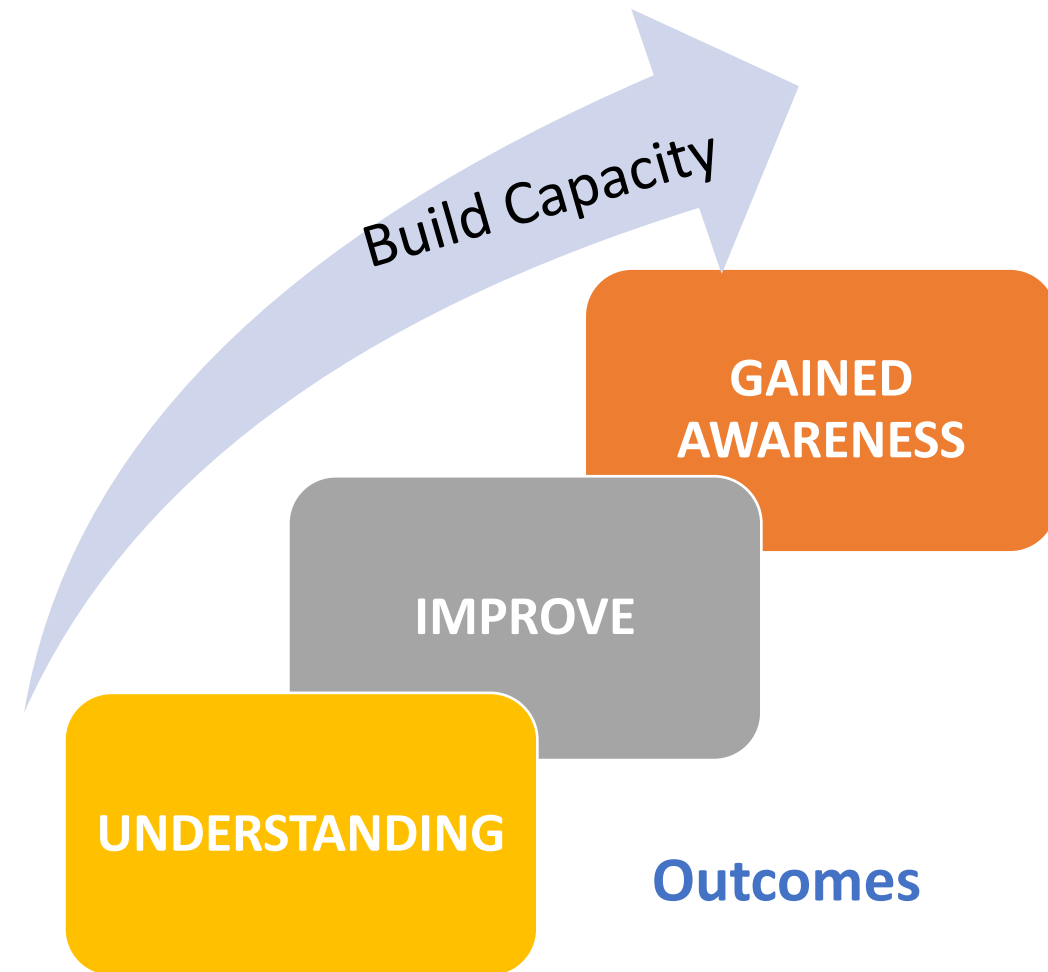
Jonathan Baker, UNESCO



WEBINAR - "Working together for a nature-positive transition: Incorporating the Global Biodiversity Framework into UNSDCF processes"

Objectives:

- Enhance knowledge on the outcomes of COP-15, including the linkages between GBF and SDGs targets, and their relevance to UNSDCF processes and the work of UNCTs;
- Facilitate peer-to-peer learning and information exchange on best practice examples;
- Build capacity around the new financing opportunities following COP-15;
- Showcase actions at the national level – from agreements to planning, coordination and synergistic implementation; and
- Identify how the IBC can further support the UNCTs moving forward.





Istanbul Workshop

Topic 6: Biodiversity

Matthew Billot, UNEP



Istanbul workshop topic 6: Biodiversity

- **Organized and delivered by:** UNEP, UNDP and UNESCO with contributions from FAO and ILO.
- **Goal:** Improve UNCT **capacity on leading the implementation of Global Biodiversity Framework** to meet targets, especially those related to protected areas, food and livelihoods, financing, and climate change, more effectively.

Objectives

Improve common understanding of Global Biodiversity Framework

Identify Entry points for RCOs and UNCTs

Raise awareness on holistic approaches to biodiversity

Strengthen capacity amongst RCOs and UNCTs



Istanbul workshop topic 6: Biodiversity

Topic	Sub-topic
An Overview of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of Global Biodiversity Framework • The UN Common approach to Biodiversity <i>The United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG) system</i>
Protected areas and other area-based conservation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO's reconciliation strategy to implement the 30X30 target - • MAB • Sustainable Tourism • <i>- The Amu Darya River Basin, Uzbekistan</i> • <i>- The Vjosa National Park, Albania</i>
Financing Biodiversity	<i>The Task Force on Nature Related Disclosure TNFD , The UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative</i>
Nature-based Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming Nature-based Solutions in Biodiversity and Climate Change <i>Resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022</i> • Biodiversity for food security and socio-economic resilience • Nature Based Solutions and Just Transitions - Action on Green Economy (PAGE)



Water related activities

Sara Radnaaragchaa, UNECE

Water-related activities



- [Informal discussion on water cooperation in Central Asia](#) with RCs and UNCTs, 17 February 2023
- [Mapping of water-related activities of UN agencies implemented in Central Asia](#), August 2023
- Informal inter-agency discussion on achieving water-related SDGs and subsequent establishment of a sub-group on water in **Kazakhstan**, September 2023
- Request from RC in **Azerbaijan** on organization of an event on transboundary water cooperation
 - Water Task Team meeting
 - Online meeting with the RCs in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia
- [Regional workshop on environment and climate change issues in the implementation of UNSDCF](#)s, September 2023 – Session on Water, including transboundary water cooperation



Responding to UNCT requests

Nicholas Bonvoisin, UNECE

Responding to UNCT requests



- Requests made in RCP or RC meetings, e.g. climate-change messaging
- Requests made in follow-up to other events, e.g. water-related events
- **Requests made through the DCO survey of country-level needs**

Responding to UNCT requests



Country	Thematic area	Timeframe	Type of support
Georgia	Environment and Climate Change	Q2 or Q3 2023	Training and capacity building in thematic area
Kazakhstan	Environment and Climate Change	01-06-2023	Cross country/regional experience sharing
Moldova	Environment and Climate Change; Large Movement of People Displacement, and Resilience; SDG Data and Statistics; Business efficiencies and OMT	01-06-2023	Analytical support, data & diagnostics; Temporary deployment of expertise; Cross country/regional experience sharing; Support to BOS implementation & innovations
Montenegro	Environment and Climate Change; Gender Equality; Large Movement of People Displacement, and Resilience; Social Protection; SDG Data and Statistics	01-12-2023	Analytical support, data & diagnostics; Cross country/regional experience sharing; Mainstreaming of global agendas & inter-governmental processes
Turkmenistan	Environment and Climate Change	29-01-2023	Analytical support, data & diagnostics; Cross country/regional experience sharing; Mainstreaming of global agendas & inter-governmental processes

Responding to UNCT requests



- Georgia
- **Introductory webinar on nexus of climate action and LNOB**
- Opened by head of RCO
- Presentations by OHCHR, FAO, ILO, UNICEF and UNDRR
- 21 participants
- 100 views of video on YouTube



- Turkmenistan
- **Introductory webinar on disability-inclusive climate change adaptation and DRR (educational) materials, and innovative “green schools” solutions**
- Opening by UNICEF Acting Dep. Rep.
- Presentations by OHCHR, UNDRR, UNDP, UNESCO and UNECE
- 15 participants
- 54 views





Updates from RCP

Michael Kunz, UNECE

Moderation by Magdalena Landry, IBC co-Chair, UNESCO



Priorities for the IBC workplan 2024

Dyfan Jones, DCO

Moderation by Magdalena Landry, IBC co-Chair, UNESCO



Survey results, timeline and expectations

Dyfan Jones, DCO



General discussion



Conclusions and next steps

by Arnold Kreilhuber, IBC co-Chair, UNEP

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	<i>(to be defined at the level of the RCP)</i>						
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)

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 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 Palosaari (UNEP)

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



Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change for ECA region

<p>Knowledge products produced to-date by IBC / group in 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Green Transitions Training Programme, February 2023 • Mapping of water-related activities of UN agencies implemented in Central Asia, August 2023 • Brief report on regional workshop, in September 2023 quarterly newsletter of DCO (full report forthcoming)
<p>IBC major results in 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional workshop gathered over 100 UN staff from 12 agencies across 15 countries and territories; UNCT and RCO members developed ideas for future collaboration at the country and regional levels. • Biodiversity webinar built the capacity of UNCTs to support countries to deliver on the targets of Global Biodiversity Framework, including through incorporation into UNSDCF processes. • Informal discussion on water cooperation in Central Asia resulted in increased awareness of available platforms at global and regional level that provide reliable data and evidence for country level work and in further commitments to work at sub regional level on water issues. Furthermore, it led to creation of an interagency subgroup on water management in Kazakhstan led by RCO.
<p>Regional / sub regional events held by IBC in 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal discussion on water cooperation in Central Asia, February 2023, online • Webinar on together for the nature-positive transition: Incorporating the Global Biodiversity Framework into UNSDCF processes, June 2023, online • Regional workshop on environment and climate change issues in the implementation of UNSDCFs, September 2023, in person
<p>UNCTs directly assisted in 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia: Introductory webinar on the nexus of climate action and LNOB, June 2023 • Turkmenistan: Webinar on disability-inclusive climate change adaptation and DRR materials, and innovative “green schools” solutions, June 2023 • Kazakhstan: Informal inter-agency discussion on achieving the water-related SDGs, August 2023 (no public document)
<p>Challenges faced by IBC in 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenty of needs and ideas of how to respond but limited human and financial resources to respond. • Dependency on member focal points dedicating time in addition to their regular duties; still, there was particularly strong engagement by many members in the September regional workshop. • Core team, in particular, has an increased workload due to high demands from RCs and UNCTs.
<p>Number of IBC meetings held in 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 membership meetings + 1 regional workshop • Regular, frequent core team meetings