



Final Meeting report

Sixteenth Meeting of the IBC on Environment and Climate Change

17 October 2024 (10:00–11:30, Geneva/Venice/CET)

The purpose of the meeting was to update the IBC members on the progress made in implementing the 2024 work plan and to provide an overview of the recent activities conducted and those currently underway in the last quarter of 2024, including responses to UN Country Team (UNCT) requests. Additionally, the meeting aimed to gather preliminary reflections to shape next year's IBC work.

The meeting was opened by IBC co-chair Sylvie Motard, Deputy Director of UNEP Europe Office, and closed by IBC core team member Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa, UNECE. In total, 13 IBC members were represented: FAO, ILO, OHCHR, UNFCCC, UN-Women, UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNOPS, WHO and WMO.

In **the first session**, moderated by IBC co-chair Magdalena Landry, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, **IBC core group members gave a brief overview on the status of UNCT requests. Marika Palosaari, UNEP, began the session with an overview on the progress made on "Cluster 1 Response: Incorporating Global Agendas at the National Level".** The first instalment, [a Refresher Training Webinar on Integrating Environmental and Climate Change Considerations into UNSDCF Processes](#), took place on September 10, 2024 and attracted over 50 participants, including speakers from UNCTs who presented various topics and selected case studies. **It aimed to familiarize newcomers to the IBC with the previously developed [Guidance on Integrating The Environment And Climate Change Into UNSDCFs](#), produced by the IBC in 2021.** The second instalment, a webinar focusing on **Integrating Biodiversity into UNSDCF Processes**, scheduled for November 2024, will aim to demonstrate to the UNCTs the most effective ways to support governments and economies in achieving this integration. Next, **Alper Almaz, DCO, delivered a presentation on "Cluster 2 Response: Central Asia," offering a concise overview of ongoing requests from Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.** He noted that these countries are part of the 12, engaging with the Cooperation Framework Guidance and are currently in the process of developing their UN Common Country Analyses (CCAs), highlighting the vital role of the support offered by the IBC. **Elena Osipova, UNESCO, followed by providing an overview of an upcoming webinar being developed as a response to a UNCT Uzbekistan request for support in mapping the impact of environmental and climate change on women in Central Asia, with a particular focus on Uzbekistan. The webinar will explore the nexus of water, gender and climate change and is scheduled for 17 November 2024.** Interested IBC members were invited to participate. **Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa, UNECE, followed by presenting a general update on the status of three particular UNCT requests: First, UNCT Tajikistan's request for guidance and good practices on how to enhance collaboration between results groups on green growth and climate and environment to develop a joint signature initiative and common approach in policy advocacy and programmes.** This guidance, focusing on inclusive green economic growth and climate action, is planned for November/December



2024. **Second, UNCT North Macedonia's request on air pollution**, which has expanded to include all countries in the Western Balkans. This response is under development and will result in the creation of a knowledge product, such as a UN system factsheet or brochure, highlighting the actions taken by the UN to promote clean air in the region. **Lastly, the Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs) in the South Caucasus requested a comprehensive mapping of past, ongoing and planned water-related programmes and initiatives by the UN, which was concluded on 24 September 2024.** The knowledge produced included a review and analysis of water-related initiatives which highlighted the main areas, key achievements and implications. Additionally, it identified programmatic entry points for the UN for 2024 and beyond, aligning with the UNSDCF for 2026–2030 at both subregional and country levels. **A similar knowledge product is currently being developed for Central Asia focusing on reviewing, analysing and identifying UN priorities in the region. It is expected to be completed by November 2024.** Marika Palosaari, UNEP, concluded the session with a "Lessons Learned and Outlook 2025" segment where she outlined the progress made and briefly described the steps toward the 2025 work plan. Following her presentation, the floor was opened and the following IBC members intervened:

Cristina Martinez, ILO, emphasized the need for the IBC to elevate methods of delivery for events and product. She proposed to conduct a joint rapid assessment for countries and bring expertise of IBC agencies to local agencies on the ground, although she notes that cost might pose a significant challenge. **Maria Osbeck, UNICEF**, added that joint missions for countries clustered by themes create a great opportunity to facilitate knowledge exchange, suggesting a clustered joint session on air pollution in the Western Balkans. **Dovile Adamonyte, WHO**, proposed utilizing social media channels as a method of delivery to promote IBC work for communication and outreach purposes. Adding that WHO 2025 priorities include health challenges related to climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss, emphasizing WHO's commitment to contribute to the IBC 2025 workplan.

Jeremy Schlickerrieder, FAO, requested that the notes from the core team meetings be accessible to all members. To facilitate this, the IBC core will share minutes from the meetings on the IBC channel on Teams. In addition, he suggested exploring the opportunities to collaboration with other IBCs in the region to coordinate joint request responses (e.g. IBC on Sustainable Food System). He concluded his remarks by outlining FAO 2025 priorities which will focus on the implementation of decisions and outcomes of 3 COPs: climate change, biodiversity and desertification. Proposing an idea to enhance the impact of these activities by selecting a maximum of three pilot countries (respectively in Western Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia), in which several activities are conducted to showcase the work of IBC on one objective. Adding that in view of the 3 COPs, some brief information can be published-



including the main outcomes of the IBC 16th Membership meeting, thus the countries may be aware of the latest updates and information.

Nora Sahatciu, UNOPS, emphasized the importance of raising awareness through IBC agencies and RCOs working at country level. Noting that tapping into a wider range of expertise from member organizations would enhance the IBC's capacity to address a broader array of issues. Lastly adding that UNOPS is willing to contribute to the IBC factsheet on air pollution.

Lastly, **Samuel Partey, UNESCO**, mentioned that the method of delivery needs to involve rapid assessment and scoping study. Adding that the next COP on climate change will be focused on climate finance; in this regard, the IBC could develop every quarter some materials such as policy briefs on priority issues to the UNCT in order to support climate action in the countries.

In the last session, **Cristina Martinez, ILO**, provided IBC members with an update on the progress being made in preparation for an ILO-COP29 side event focusing on a Just Transition, scheduled to take place on November 21-22, 2024. She noted that the event will feature IBC members UNDP, UNEP, and UNFCCC, with UNECE providing interventions as IBC co-chair.

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Final agenda

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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. For more information about the IBC, its membership and its previous meetings, please visit the website. ¹

The objective of this meeting is to give an update on responding to the UNCT requests and gather preliminary reflections to shape next year's work.

10:00 – 10:10	Welcome and opening addresses, including meeting objectives – by IBC co-chair Sylvie Motard (UNEP)
10:10 – 11:00	<p>2024 IBC workplan – by IBC co-chair Magda Landry (UNESCO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Status of UN Country Team requests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cluster 1 response on Incorporating global agendas at national level, by <i>Marika Palosaari (UNEP)</i> ○ Cluster 2 response to Central Asia ○ Uzbekistan ○ Tajikistan ○ South-East Europe (through North Macedonia) - Response to requests from RCs and DCO on water management, by <i>Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa (UNECE)</i> <p>Lessons learned and Outlook 2025: <i>preliminary outline by Marika Palosaari followed by a discussion</i></p> <p><i>The moderator will invite reflections from IBC members on the collaboration in 2024 to help guide the planning of processes and the workplan for 2025.</i></p>
11:00 – 11:20	Events in the region 2024 – COP29 side event on just transition – Cristina Martinez (ILO)
11:20 – 11:30	Closing remarks and next steps – by Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa (UNECE)