



United Nations Inter-Agency
**Issue-Based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change
in Europe and Central Asia region**

Terms of Reference, revised 2024

I. Background

The United Nations Inter-Agency Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) on Environment and Climate Change in Europe and Central Asia region was established in March 2020 under the Regional Collaborative Platform for Europe and Central Asia (RCP), and reports to it. For its operation, the IBC relies upon human and financial resources provided by its members.

II. Objectives

The IBC provides a regional platform for UN agencies to:

- (i) Promote coordinated support to all Member States in Europe and Central Asia in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international processes;
- (ii) Support UN Country Teams (UNCTs) in the Europe and Central Asia region on environmental and climate change issues.

The IBC works on activities dedicated to strengthening environmental and climate change governance, improving environmental management, enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, while contributing to reducing GHG emissions. The work of the IBC furthermore promotes sustainable management of natural resources and of pollution, chemicals and wastes and addressing biodiversity loss, and so contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and the relevant commitments and undertakings under multilateral environmental agreements. The activities will advance green and just transition, human rights, gender equality, decent work and leaving no-one behind, using a people-centred approach that recognizes the root causes of inequalities.



The IBC's work is based around three pillars:

1. **Strengthening environmental and climate change governance and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development and its 17 SDGs:** To build political momentum and advocate for enhanced and accelerated policy action to implement the 2030 Agenda, with a particular focus on the environmental and climate change dimension of the SDGs, and enhance the ambition of relevant national commitments and priorities. In addition to advocating for environmental and climate change issues at the regional level, including through relevant regional intergovernmental processes, the IBC will focus on working with UNCTs to strengthen national institutions working on environmental and climate change policy and governance. In particular, the IBC on Environment and Climate Change:
 - In the context of environmental and climate change processes, and in collaboration with regional institutions, advocates at the regional level for strengthened and accelerated policy action and transition pathways to address country and regional priorities, such as enhanced ambition for climate action, biodiversity protection, nature-based solutions, circular economy, just transitions and decent work, decarbonization and net-zero strategies, sustainable consumption and production, sustainable infrastructure and both sectoral and cross-sectoral approaches, strengthened resilience to climate related disasters.
 - Support with identifying the key institutional and governance challenges for the environment and climate change within the programme countries, such as inter-institutional cooperation, enhancement of legal and regulatory frameworks, stakeholder engagement and human rights, and exchange good practice principles and approaches with the UNCTs.
 - Assists UNCTs in strengthening country capacities to accede to, implement and report on global and regional multilateral environmental and climate change agreements and integrating them in country programming processes.
 - Examines environmental and climate risks and provides guidance on preparedness, prevention and risk reduction measures.



2. **Supporting UN Country Teams in the environmental and climate change dimension of Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and Common Country Analysis (CCA) processes:** To discuss and engage in the UNSDCF processes in a demand-driven, coordinated and coherent manner, for strengthening the environmental and climate change dimension and science-policy-practice interface for the delivery of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda and other global policy processes of relevance. In particular, the IBC on Environment and Climate Change:
 - Works with UNCTs to ensure integration of environmental and climate change priorities are properly identified and presented in the UNSDCFs and CCAs for the programme countries in the region, by applying a systematic approach to engage and inform the development and content of the UNSDCFs and CCAs using the IBC’s guidance materials and other resources.
 - Offers an IBC menu of services for UNCTs and other stakeholders, related to the environmental and climate change dimension of SDGs, across the UN system, based on the demands of RCs and UNCTs and on the capacities of the IBC members.
3. **Information sharing relevant to the environmental and climate change dimension of SDGs:** To make IBC resources available through the RCP website for the benefit of UNCTs and other stakeholders, to share and streamline scientific data and information and existing tools across the UN family, with a focus on the implementation of the environmental and climate change dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Europe and Central Asia (while fully acknowledging the integrated nature of environment, social, health, economic and governance aspects). In particular, the IBC on Environment and Climate Change promotes sharing of information to UNCTs preparing their CCAs about relevant environmental and climate change data, statistics, existing tools and assessments, at both the national level and through global, regional and thematic assessments.



III. Menu of Services

| IBC thematic Coverage | | Main support modalities | Linkages and coordination with regional/country-level mechanism |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Climate change and disaster risk reduction</p> <p>Biodiversity & nature-based solutions</p> <p>Air pollution</p> <p>Sustainable consumption & production</p> <p>Water management</p> <p>Food security & land management</p> <p>Sustainable infrastructure</p> <p>Environment & youth</p> <p>Environment & gender</p> <p>Migration, environment & climate change</p> <p>Human rights, environment and climate change</p> <p><i>Note: Thematic coverage is provided by task teams, which may be arranged jointly with other IBCs in the region.</i></p> | | <p>Providing policy advice to RCs and UNCTs on the environment and climate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing guidance and recommendations on the environment and climate change <p>Advisory services for UNCTs on the development of CCAs and UNSDCF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing guidance and checklists on strengthening the environmental and climate change dimension of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) and Common Country Analyses (CCAs); ○ Providing expertise in the analysis of the environmental and climate change dimension of CCAs in coordination with the regional Peer Support Group through Regional Development Coordination Office (R-DCO), and key resident agencies; ○ Analysing existing CCAs and UNSDCF to identify common environment and climate change priorities as well as gaps and preparing recommendations. <p>Capacity development on environmental and climate change dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training sessions for UNCTs on specific themes identified through task teams with UNCTs. <p>Knowledge management, scientific data and information sharing within the UN system on environment and climate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge products continuously uploaded in UN Regional Knowledge Management Hub. <p>Catalyst for international, regional and transboundary cooperation within UN system on environment and climate change.</p> <p>Outreach and communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach to RCs and countries, World Environment Day messages, website for IBC ○ Organization and facilitation of experience sharing including peer-learning sessions at the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development <p>Interagency support to RCs and UNCTs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acting as a contact point for requests by RCs and UNCTs for the identification of experts to provide coordinated interagency support, with the provision of such support being subject to the resources available among IBC members | <p>Linkages with RCs, UNCTs, environment results groups, technical groups, focal points, Peer Support Group (PSG), Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP), R-DCO, subregional focus where appropriate (i.e., to address common challenges or transboundary issues) through relevant groupings of RCs and UNCTs</p> |



IV. Working modality

1. UNEP, UNESCO and UNECE to co-chair.
2. The focal points and alternates represent their organization and are responsible for providing an update on their organization's environmental and climate change science-policy practice, work and activities supporting the delivery of the environmental and climate change dimension of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. The focal point is also responsible for keeping their colleagues in the respective agencies informed on the activities of the IBC.
3. IBC members to meet through regular video conferencing, approximately every three or four months, as needed, to maintain momentum and coordination and foster an inclusive process in which all members can make their contributions to the IBC strategy, direction and focus.
4. Technical representatives of the co-chairs and DCO to meet approximately weekly to coordinate the functioning of the IBC.
5. A retreat of the IBC to be held annually as conditions allow.
6. Ad-hoc calls to be made if needed to prepare for supporting activities at the national and regional level.
7. An annual review to be carried out of work, results, progress towards achieving these terms of reference, engagement and attendance of agencies, country feedback and UN Regional Coordination Platform.
8. Based on a common format prepared by Joint RCP Secretariat, the IBC co-chairs to prepare input to end of year reporting for the Regional Annual Results report. More frequent reporting to be carried out if required by the RCP.
9. The IBC to report regularly and be accountable to the RCP.
10. The IBC will create task teams to address technical issues following specific requests from UNCTs.
11. The IBC will create synergies with other IBCs where themes overlap between them.
12. Products, such as policy briefs, will be issued through the IBC co-leads to Regional DCO and thus to RCs and UNCTs.
13. The holding of webinars will be coordinated by the IBC co-leads to avoid overloading RCs and UNCTs.
14. The IBC does not engage in operational matters, or in mobilizing resources for programmes or projects, or in implementing them.
15. All types of support services provided by the IBC to UNCTs are request based.
16. Finally, the IBC maximizes the opportunities presented by the UN Reform even where some agencies are not physically present in the target countries.



V. Outreach and Communication

The IBC, through RCP, maintains its webpage (<https://uneurocentralasia.org/en/ibc-environmental-coalition>) that acts as a knowledge hub for the UN system on environment and climate change in the region, complementing the anticipated overall Regional Knowledge Management Hub. The webpage is continuously updated with IBC products. This platform organizes relevant information in an easily accessible way for the UN system as a whole and particularly RCs and UNCTs. It includes calendar of outreach activities especially for RCs and UNCTs to increase their engagement with the IBC and awareness of the response offer of the IBC.

VI. Membership

The IBC is open to all UN agencies, funds and programmes. Related entities working at the regional level on environment and/or climate change may also be invited.

The membership is reviewed and confirmed every year based on specific needs or joint activities included in the annual workplan. Observers may be invited as necessary and when relevant.

Each member designates a focal point and an alternate(s), ideally specialists working on SDGs. Gender and geographical balance need to be considered.

Any cost of participation is met by each participating member.

The IBC consists of 17 members from the UN family: FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UN Habitat, UN Women, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP, WHO and WMO.

VII. Sunset Clause

The IBC will be terminated if the number of members falls below 10, or the IBC has no meaningful input to the end of year reporting for the Regional Annual Results report, or its activities are absorbed by another mechanism.

The regional director of an IBC member that is inactive within the IBC for a period of 12 months will be asked to explicitly confirm its continued membership.

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