



Meeting report n. 20

Twentieth Meeting of the IBC on Environment and Climate Change

5 March 2026 (10:00-11:30, Geneva/Venice/CET)

The purpose of the meeting was to review the achievements of the IBC in 2025 in response to UNCT requests and discuss the implementation of the workplan for 2026. The meeting was opened by IBC co-chair Daro Liguti, Director of the Energy, Housing and Land Management division at UNECE, and closed by IBC co-chair Magdalena Landry, Director of UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

In total, 15 IBC members were represented: FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN Women, WHO, WMO.

In the opening of the meeting, Dario Liguti, IBC co-chair, formally introduced the new IBC member agency UNFPA.

During the first session, moderated by IBC co-chair Arnold Kreilhuber, Regional Director of the UN Environment Programme's Europe Office, the IBC core team presented the main activities implemented and key outcomes of 2025.

It was highlighted that in 2025, the IBC addressed 11 UNCT requests, delivered 3 knowledge products, provided region-wide capacity building on biodiversity, air pollution, water management, gender & just transition, urban sustainability and multi-hazard early warning systems:

- [Key Advocacy Messages for Biodiversity Mainstreaming](#)
- [Guidance for integrating biodiversity into CCA & UNSDCF](#)
- [Air pollution in the Western Balkans: a global crisis with regional impacts](#)

Upcoming Policy Brief: Financing a Just Transition to the Green Economy in Serbia: Strategies and Modalities

The second session outlined the [IBC 2026 workplan](#) based on the requests of UNCTs, received from four countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

- Armenia: Biodiversity, Climate Agenda and Food Systems.
- Azerbaijan: Joint Programme on Human Development for Climate Resilience (in line with the Baku Initiative).
- Turkmenistan: Education for sustainable development and Climate Change Education.
- Uzbekistan: Original request to support to set 2030 targets for certain SDG indicators was replaced by request for support on Air quality. The later request is now completed as the IBC core team provided a list of existing analytical and policy-oriented knowledge products by the UN and other development partners and offered further guidance through UNEP experts.

The IBC Core Team is consulting the UNCTs and reflects any revisions in an updated workplan. (The workplan was updated on March 17 and submitted to the DCO, see annex)

Furthermore, the IBC core team presented two planned and ongoing activities, namely (1) Regional webinar on Urban Sustainability and (2) Regional pollution action mapping and implementation guidance.

IBC members indicated their willingness to support specific requests:

- UNFPA offered to contribute to the upcoming Webinar on Heat, Cooling and Energy systems, and knowledge products on pollution.
- UNDP recognised the work of the IBC as a key support in NDC implementation.
- UNICEF briefly presented their new Country Programme Documents, integrating climate and environment. UNICEF indicated interest in education for sustainable development and climate change education, and air pollution. Lastly, UNICEF and UNDRR will launch soon a new report on heat stress and children.
- UNOPS expressed interest in air, water and soil pollution.
- WMO invited the members to suggest potential themes for the European State of Climate report 2026.
- UNDRR confirmed their contribution to the regional webinar series on Urban Sustainability.

IBC members were invited to submit their comments on their contributions to the [IBC 2026 workplan](#) and to the UNCT requests by email.

In closing, IBC co-chair Magdalena Landry acknowledged the active participation and commitment of the IBC member to the 2026 workplan.

List of Annexes:

- Annex 1: final agenda
- Annex 2: general presentation
- Annex 3: [IBC 2026 workplan](#)



Final agenda

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

5 March 2026 (10:00–11:30, Geneva/CET), Geneva & online

TIME	ITEM
10:00–10:05	Welcome remarks , by Dario Liguti, IBC co-chair (UNECE)
10:05–10:15	Setting the scene and 2025 results - Brief presentation on main activities implemented: key outcomes from 2025, by Jing Fang, UNESCO
10:15–11:20	Implementation of the 2026 workplan , by Arnold Kreilhuber, IBC co-chair (UNEP) • Presentation of the draft 2026 work plan - 2026 UNCT Requests, by Chiara Giamberardini, UNECE - Urban sustainability webinar series, by Marika Palosaari, UNEP - Knowledge products on pollution, by Marika Palosaari, UNEP • Proposals to lead or contribute to workplan elements, IBC members • Agreement on roles of IBC members in workplan delivery
11:20–11:30	Conclusions and closure , by Magdalena Landry, IBC co-chair (UNESCO)

Meeting documents:

- [RCP ECA Work Plan 2026](#)
- [Input RCP Results Reports 2025](#)
- [IBC Env and CC 19th meeting report final 20112025 with annexes](#)



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

20th membership meeting

05 March 2026

10:00–11:30 CET



Agenda

10:00 – 10:05	Welcome remarks – by IBC co-chair, Dario Liguti, UNECE
10:05 – 10:15	Setting the scene and 2025 results Brief presentation on main activities implemented : key outcomes from 2025, by Jing Fang, UNESCO
10:15 – 11:20	Implementation of the 2026 workplan – Moderated by IBC co-chair, Arnold Kreilhuber, UNEP Presentation of the draft 2026 work plan: 2026 UNCT Requests, by Chiara Giamberardini, UNECE - Urban sustainability webinar series, by Marika Palosaari, UNEP - Knowledge products on pollution, by Marika Palosaari, UNEP Proposals to lead or contribute to workplan elements, IBC members - Agreement on roles of IBC members in workplan delivery
11:20 – 11:30	Closing remarks and next steps – by IBC co-chair, Magdalena Landry, UNESCO



Welcome remarks

Dario Liguti, IBC co-chair, UNECE



Key outcomes from 2025

Jing Fang, UNESCO

IBC on Environment and Climate Change

In 2025, IBC Environment & Climate change:

- Addressed 11 UNCT request
- Delivered 3 knowledge products
- Provided region-wide capacity building on biodiversity, air pollution, water management, gender & just transition, urban sustainability and multi-hazard early warning systems



Country Requests Summary Overview

November 2025

	Env & CC	Gender	Health & WB	Movement of People (No Updates)	Social Protection	Food Systems	Adolescents and Youth	SDG Data and Statistics	Digital Transformation	PSG
Albania										Completed
Armenia										
Azerbaijan	Postponed	Not Started					Ongoing	Not Started		
Belarus										
BiH		Not Started			Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Not Started		
Georgia				Not Started	Ongoing			Not Started	Not Started	Completed
Kazakhstan		Completed	Ongoing				Ongoing			
Kosovo*					Ongoing					
Kyrgyzstan	Completed	Completed		Ongoing	Postponed	Ongoing		Not Started		
Moldova		Not Started								
Montenegro				Completed						
North Macedonia	Completed	Not Started					Not Started		Ongoing	
Serbia	Ongoing	Completed								
Tajikistan	Ongoing									
Türkiye		Completed			Not Started	Ongoing	Ongoing			Completed
Turkmenistan	Ongoing									
Ukraine										
Uzbekistan										
ECA Region	Ongoing							Completed		
	Completed							Ongoing		
Central Asia	Completed									
South Caucasus	Completed									

IBC Support Stage:

Completed
Ongoing
Planned for future
Postponed
Withdrawn
Not Started
No information

Michael Schadt — +

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



2025 Major Results

- **Guidance on integrating biodiversity into UN planning frameworks and biodiversity mainstreaming advocacy:** 2 webinars and 2 knowledge products
- **Practitioner's webinar: Financing Sustainable Development Initiatives** in response to the request of UNCT in North Macedonia
- **Strengthened UNCT capacity to integrate gender equality into just transition and climate agendas** in response to requests from UNCTs in Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, and Türkiye, in cooperation with IBC Gender
- **Water initiatives and transboundary water management in Central Asia:** an informal dialogue with RCs and UN partners to present findings and discuss policy and programmatic entry points
- **Transboundary water management initiatives in the South Caucasus:** a follow up dialogue with RCs and UN partners.
- **Strengthened regional understanding of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems**
- **Financing a Just Transition to the Green Economy in Serbia** through the development of policy brief
- **Support for sustainable urban planning and resilient cities:** a concept for a three-part webinar series



Knowledge products

- **Guidance:** Guidance for integrating biodiversity into Common Country Analysis and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks
- **Policy Brief:** Key advocacy messages on biodiversity
- **Communication brochure:** Air pollution in the Western Balkans: a global crisis with regional impacts
- ***Upcoming* Policy Brief:** Financing a Just Transition to the Green Economy in Serbia: Strategies and Modalities



Implementation of the 2026 workplan

Moderated by Arnold Kreilhuber, IBC co-chair, UNEP



2026 UNCT Requests

Serbia [carried over from 2025]

- **Policy Brief: Financing a Just Transition to the Green Economy in Serbia: Strategies and Modalities**
 - A policy brief outlining key strategies for financing a Just Transition to the Green Economy, including public finance reforms, climate funds, private sector engagement, and social protection
 - Status: near completion

Armenia

- **Biodiversity, Climate Agenda and Food Systems**
 - RC requested support in developing knowledge products and mainstreaming into UNSDCF programmes
 - Status: ongoing: IBC shared relevant documents with the RCO; further follow-up may be requested

Azerbaijan

- **Joint Programme on Human Development for Climate Resilience** (in line with the Baku Initiative)
 - Initial consultation in early 2025; RCO asked for postponing until 2026
 - Proposed methods of delivery: joint programming/advocacy
 - Status: planning phase



2026 UNCT Requests

Turkmenistan

- **Education for sustainable development and Climate Change Education**
 - Results Group requested support in incorporating education for sustainable development and climate change education in the education programmes at the system level through multisectoral cooperation
 - Proposed methods of delivery: development of knowledge products, webinars, in-person support (missions), joint programming/advocacy
 - Status: planning phase (IBC consulting the RCO to further define the need for support)

Uzbekistan

- **Original request: support to set 2030 targets for certain SDG indicators was replaced by request for support on Air quality.**
 - In response the IBC core team provided a list of existing analytical and policy-oriented knowledge products by the UN and other development partners, and offered further guidance through UNEP experts.
 - Status: completed.



Regional webinar series on Urban Sustainability

Objective: foster internal UN dialogue, capacity-building, and cooperation to strengthen UN support to governments on urban climate action and resilience

- Content of the webinar series developed in collaboration with IBC members and relevant UN agencies and partnerships, drawing on their expertise, initiatives, and ongoing work on sustainable urbanization
- Offered for all UNCTs in the region

Status : ongoing

- Integrated approaches to sustainable urban development (delivered January 22)
- Sustainable cooling, urban heat resilience and integrated urban energy (mid-April)
- Decarbonizing the construction sector and resilient housing (Q2 2026)



Regional pollution action mapping and implementation guidance

- **Region-wide mapping and gap analysis** of pollution-related action across all major pollution types
- Development of a **practical, implementation-focused guidance** document identifying priority gaps, scalable solutions, funding opportunities and entry points for coordinated and impactful action
- Collaboration with the UN Environment Management Group



Conclusion and next steps

by IBC co-chair, Magdalena Landry, UNESCO

ANNEX 3: IBC 2026 workplan

2026 Work Plan								
IBC on Environment and Climate Change								
Activities	Client / Recipient of support	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Lead agency	Contributing Agencies	Remarks
UNCT 2025 requests:								
Serbia: Just Transition Policy Brief (continuation from 2025)	UNCT Serbia	x				ILO	UNECE, UNEP	
UNCT 2026 requests:								
Armenia: Biodiversity and Climate agenda and Food Systems	UNCT Armenia	x				Core team		Completed
Azerbaijan: Joint Programme on Human Development for Climate Resilience in line with Baku Initiative	UNCT Azerbaijan	x	x	x	x	UNEP	ILO	
Turkmenistan: Education for sustainable development and Climate Change Education	UNCT Turkmenistan	x	x	x	x	UNESCO		
Uzbekistan: TBC - Support in helping set 2030 targets for certain SDG indicators	UNCT Uzbekistan							Withdrawn
Regional capacity building and knowledge products								
Urban sustainability webinar series: (based on Türkiye's request, continued from '25) Integrated approaches to sustainable urban development (January 22)	UNCTs across region	x	x			UNEP	UNESCO, UNECE, UNDRR, FAO, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNFPA	

Regional Collaborative Platform in Europe and Central Asia
Work Plan January 2026 – December 2026

- Decarbonizing the construction sector and resilient housing (Q1 2026) - Sustainable cooling, urban heat resilience and integrated urban energy								
Strengthening coordinated pollution action: regional mapping, gap analysis and implementation guidance	UNCTs across region	x	x	x		UNEP	UNECE, UNESCO	
Outreach, communication, and partner engagement: regular IBC membership meetings; contributions to RCP website; preparation of communications materials, making IBCs products more available; and dialogue with RCs/UNCTs.	RCP and members of the IBC Environment and Climate Change	x	x	x	x	IBC Core team		