

**Meeting report n. 21****Twenty-first Meeting of the IBC on Environment and Climate Change**

18 June 2026 (10:00-11:30, Geneva/Venice/CET)

The purpose of the meeting was to review the 6-month work done under the [IBC 2026 workplan](#), discuss the activities planned and new ideas for the rest of the year. The meeting was opened by IBC co-chair Dario Liguti, Director of the Energy, Housing and Land Management division at UNECE, and closed by IBC co-chair Arnold Kreilhuber, Regional Director of the UN Environment Programme's Europe Office (UNEP).

In total, 15 IBC members were represented: FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Women, WHO, WMO, UNDCO, UN-Habitat, UNEMG, OHCHR.

In the opening of the meeting, Dario Liguti, IBC co-chair, reinforced the objective of the coalition, gave recognition to the work of its members, and welcomed to the IBC focal point from OHCHR, Zixi Li, Associate Human Rights Officer in the Regional Hub for Europe and Central Asia of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Mona Folkesson from the UNDCO noted the RCP Secretariat will circulate a brief survey on the status of delivery of country-level requests. In the context of UN80 and the regional reset, she noted that the work of regional inter-agency structures is expected to evolve towards a stronger cross-pillar integration, bringing together the development, humanitarian peace, and human rights agendas, providing integrated policy expertise and concrete support the RCs and UNCTs more systematically. She also referred to the regional reset including the establishment of Regional Platforms for Integration (RPI), building on the existing RCP, to improve internal coordination for mobilization of regional capacities for countries.

During the first session, the IBC core team presented the completed and on-going activities of 2026:

- Regional Webinar Series on Urban Sustainability ([Integrated approaches to sustainable urban development](#); [Decarbonizing the construction sector and resilient housing](#)), by Marika Palosaari, UNEP.
- [Factsheet on Air Pollution in the Western Balkans](#), by Marika Palosaari, UNEP.
- IBC-EMG collaboration to produce the Regional Pollution Action Mapping and implementation guidance, by Jannica Pitkänen, UN EMG.
- [Policy Brief: Financing a Just Transition in Serbia](#), by Alper Almaz, DCO.

The second session focused on the planned activities of the [IBC 2026 workplan](#), based on the requests of UNCTs:

- Turkmenistan: Education for sustainable development and Climate Change Education, by Elena Osipova, UNESCO.



- Azerbaijan: Joint Programme on Human Development for Climate Resilience, by Marika Palosaari, UNEP.

During the discussion session on planned work, moderated by Francesca Bampa (UNESCO), IBC members intervened regarding different topics:

- Invitations and calls to agencies' own activities that may be of interest to IBC members (but are not part of, or proposed for, the IBC work plan):
 - UNECE invited the IBC members to an open online event on the 22nd of June, called Systemic efficiency and resilience in urban heating and cooling.
 - UNDRR invited the IBC members to a global Deep Dive on UN regional capacities for DRR and resilience, lessons learned and opportunities ahead on the 18 June pm.
 - WMO called for support and contribution from the IBC to the Climate Policy and Action section of the yearly European State of the Climate Report.
- Interest in contributing to the implementation of the IBC work plan:
 - ILO offered its support for the Joint Programme on Human Development for Climate Resilience.
 - UN-Habitat offered support: for the spatial dimension of climate resilience in Turkmenistan; to share knowledge on its work in Azerbaijan's just transition; to co-organize a dedicated Urban Day in COP17.
- Suggestion for possible future work by the IBC:
 - FAO offered to support the production of key messages on the coherence between the future Rio Conventions COPs (two of those occurring in our region this year).

In closing, IBC co-chair Arnold Kreilhuber acknowledged the work of the IBC core team, the active participation, contributions, and suggestions of the IBC members during the meeting, the work of UNDCO, and reinforced the value proposition that this IBC brings forward.

List of Annexes:

- Annex 1: [Provisional agenda IBC membership meeting 18062026.docx](#)
- Annex 2: [IBC Env&CC 21st membership meeting 180626 General presentation.pptx](#)
- Annex 3: [IBC 2026 workplan](#)