



COP 29 DIALOGUE REPORT

UN CLIMATE CHANGE GLOBAL
INNOVATION HUB

November 2024



United Nations Climate Change
Global Innovation Hub



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	2	
DAY 1	3	
Session 1: High-level session on Innovation for Climate and Sustainability Action, Inner Development and Systems Change.....	3	
Session 2: Leveraging on Inner Development to Support the Transition to Regenerative and Empowering Cities.....	3	
Session 3: Catalysts of Change: How Culture and Creative Industries Foster Climate Transformation and Innovation.....	3	
Session 4: Role of technical assistance and blended finance models for catalyzing innovation in clean economy sectors of developing economies.....	3	
Session 5: Documentary Screening - Healing Himalayas.....	3	
DAY 2	4	
Session 1: Intergenerational Dialogue: Youth Vision for a Green Digital Future.....	4	
Session 2: Global Coalitions for Climate Innovation: Serving People and the Planet.....	4	
Session 3: Digital Power and ICT's Innovation Enable Future NetZero City.....	4	
Session 4: Industry Leadership in Advancing Green Economy Goals through Systems Change and Innovation.....	4	
Session 5: Climate change: an opportunity to strengthen the resilience of transboundary river basins.....	5	
Session 6: SDG Stimulus: Mobilizing Affordable & Predictable Climate Finance for Developing Nations.....	5	
Session 7: High-level session with City Representatives: Understanding Cities' Climate and Sustainability Needs and Priorities.....	5	
DAY 3	6	
Session 1: Sustainability Performance and Metrics.....	6	
Session 2: United Nations Solutions Platform Announcement.....	6	
Session 3: Advancing Sustainable Policies with Digital Technologies.....	6	
Session 4: Bridging the Gap: The Role of Science and Policy in Addressing Global Challenges	6	
DAY 4	7	
Session 1: Accelerating Urban and Rural Transformation: Introducing the City Challenge.....	7	
Session 2: AI for Climate: overcoming barriers to scale.....	7	
Session 3: Innovative Financial Instruments: Sustainable Finance and Green Bonds.....	7	
DAY 5	8	
Session 1: Faith and Sustainability: A Spiritual Approach towards Environmental Responsibility.....	8	
Session 2: Successfully financing green projects.....	8	
Session 3: Mobilizing Science and Technological Innovation: Enhancing Climate Resilience: Enhancing Climate Resilience.....	8	
Session 4: Climate Finance for Sustainable Regions and Cities.....	8	
Session 5: Launch of the Global Matchmaking Platform (GMP) for Industrial Decarbonisation.....	9	
DAY 6	10	
Session 1: A Digital Future for a Greener Planet: Emerging Tools and Technologies for Climate Mitigation.....	10	
Session 2: Scaling Climate Impact: Green Innovations in Adaptation Technologies.....	10	
Session 3: Showcasing Innovative Projects – Part 1.....	10	
Session 4: Viability of Integrating Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Technologies into the Energy Transition.....	10	
Session 5: Showcasing Innovative Projects – Part 2.....	11	
DAY 8	12	
Session 1: Mediterranean cooperation for innovative environment and resource governance.....	12	
Session 2: Country Perspectives on Carbon Registries: Lessons, Challenges, and Opportunities Post-COP 29.....	12	
Session 3: The first teraton (1000 gigaton) opportunity in the world.....	12	
Session 4: Data for 21st Century Governance.....	12	
Session 5: The outdoor and sports industry as a leading climate solution provider.....	13	
Session 6: Innovative approaches to advance sustainable development at the food-climate-nexus Feeding the world sustainably.....	13	
Session 7: Empowering Climate Action through Education: Closing Knowledge and Skills Gaps.....	13	
Session 8: Accelerating Transformative Innovations: Showcasing Climate Solutions.....	13	
DAY 9	14	
Session 1: Start-ups moving beyond product substitution for gigatons of impact.....	14	
Session 2: Avoided Emissions and a Climate Solution Agenda.....	14	
Session 3: Launching the flourishing lives on a flourishing planet 4 all (FLP4all) initiative.....	14	
Session 4: Future in Focus: Youth for Transformative Climate Action.....	14	
DAY 10	15	
Session 1: Incentivizing Low Carbon Cities: Digital Tools for Sustainable Urban Development.....	15	
Session 2: Showcasing Innovative Projects.....	15	
Session 3: Systemic Management Innovation: Enhancing Urban Green Spaces for Climate Benefits.....	15	
Session 4: Building Smart and Wise Cities: Green Digital Infrastructure for the Net Zero Transition.....	16	
Session 5: Accelerating Urban Transformation.....	16	
Session 6: The Sustainable Transition Is Urban: How Cities Are Making a Net-Zero, Resilient, People-Centred Future Happen.....	16	
DAY 11	16	
Session 1: From Baku to Belém: Pioneering Cities of the Expanded Climate and Innovation....	16	
UGIH Systemic Innovation Workshop.....	17	
UGIH Participation in Other Sessions.....	17	
Bilateral Meetings.....	18	
Photo Gallery.....	19	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Global Innovation Hub, launched in November 2021 at COP 26, aims to promote transformative innovations for a low-emission and climate-resilient future. The Hub expands the global innovation space by encouraging enabling entities to work on the development of innovations that aim at satisfying the core human needs while keeping human activities within the planetary boundaries. By doing so, the Innovation Hub also complements the current sector-based approach to innovation—an approach that tends to be incremental—with a transformative, need-based. The Hub also promotes a vision-oriented approach to innovation that goes beyond the product-push approach whereby one innovates and looks for use-cases and the problem-oriented approach whereby innovation is undertaken to solve a problem. Under the vision-driven approach to innovation, the vision of the future is painted and we backcast from that future and translate it into needs in terms of climate and sustainability innovations. Finally, to address the global challenges, the Hub promotes an integrated approach combining innovative technologies, policies, financial instruments, business model and cooperative approaches to effectively respond to a need.

Hosted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Innovation Hub leverages the convening power and climate leadership of the United Nations with the dynamism of the private sector. The Hub will provide a global cross-disciplinary community of practice with a space— physical and virtual—to share ideas and design climate solutions in a spirit of radical collaboration.

UGIH has built four spaces to operationalize its objectives:

- 1 Systemic Innovation Workshop
- 2 Ad-hoc Working Group
- 3 Digital Platform
- 4 Innovation Hub at COP

The UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub (UGIH), for the fourth consecutive year, successfully concluded its dialogues on transformative climate and sustainability innovation at COP 29 held between the 11th to 22nd of November 2024, during the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan. During the two weeks, UGIH held a total of 50 sessions in the Special Events Room (31), World Green Economy Organization's Pavilion (12), Digital Innovation Pavilion (1), and Deloitte Pavilion (1) and Virtually (5). UGIH participated additionally in 4 sessions outside its programming.

The objectives of this fourth UGIH COP Dialogues were fourfold:

- 1 To promote the concept of system change in climate and sustainability innovations
- 2 To raise awareness on the need to consider inner development, outer action and system change holistically
- 3 To identify and access potential partners and networks of stakeholders to build a movement that will enable effective implementation of the UGIH's key objectives
- 4 To boost UGIH's visibility

As with other years, the UGIH sessions served as a convening and networking area to promote, discuss, share, and enable transformative and collaborative strategies to develop climate and sustainability innovations. The dialogues presented a space to introduce innovative products and services, and discussed how these innovations can help advance markets and create transformative supply chains that are in line with climate and sustainability goals. Innovation can be used to manage change and discover new opportunities

Climate innovation is focused on fostering competitive advantage, sustaining current growth paths, and increasingly complying with economic and social regulations that seek to enhance emission avoidance and reductions. With a cluster of climate actors using its space at COP29 as a collaborative platform, the UGIH helps develop, transfer, and deploy innovations that align with the SDGs and climate goals.

Distinguished speakers included Mayors and other high-level government representatives; senior UN agency officials; CEOs, thought leaders, startups, NGOs, youth representatives, faith leaders, influencers, and culture and creative industry representatives.

The sessions were organized in varied thematic areas such as the need for systemic innovation, innovative financial instruments to enable climate actions, the role of inner development to drive climate action, the importance of digital tools including AI in advancing the climate and sustainability agenda, and the role of culture and creative industry and youth in driving innovation.

UGIH@ COP 29 in Numbers



Watch session recordings [here](#)

Key highlights include the announcement of the launch of the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub's Digital Platform, which is under development; the launch of UNIDO's Global Matchmaking Platform (GMP) for industrial decarbonization; and signing an MoU that seeks to promote bamboo as an alternative building material. The digital platform will be designed to host the climate and sustainability needs database. The Dialogues also featured UGIH's City Challenge Project, co-designed with a broad range of partners to incentivize cities to implement transformative climate and sustainability solutions.

The UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub (UGIH) also successfully conducted its Twelfth Systemic Innovation Workshop on the sidelines of COP 29 at the Innovation and Digital Innovation Agency, Baku, Azerbaijan, on the 13th of November 2024. The workshop saw a diverse mix of 50 participants, with 95% attending in person and the remaining attending virtually. The participants included cities, UN organizations, incubators and accelerators tech companies, foundations, VC firms, research centers, startups, and companies from the culture and creative industries.

1

Day One

Session 1

High-Level Session on Innovation for Climate and Sustainability Action, Inner Development and Systems Change

Session Description:

This session led discussions on how systems thinking combined with moonshot mindsets can serve an expanded climate and innovation space. The panelists deliberated and shared ideas, experiences, and plans that can contribute to the identification, development, and upscaled deployment of transformative and ambitious climate and sustainability solutions. The session called for a new, systemic innovation framework that is human-centric, vision-driven, need-based, transformative, and collaborative. The panelists also agreed that innovation in all its forms including business models, financial instruments, technology, policy, and leadership styles is essential for transformative and systemic change and can help attract much-needed finance particularly in the global south.

Panelists:

- Ciyong Zou, Deputy to the Director General and Managing Director of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development, UNIDO
- Kirsten Dunlop, CEO, Climate KIC
- Bernhard Lorentz, Managing Partner, Deloitte
- Johan Rockström, Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
- Ketan Patel, Chair of the Force for Good; CEO and Founder, Greater Pacific Capital
- Sujatha UG, Vice President & Head, Global Partnerships & Net Zero, Invest India
- Julien Charles Bernard Sagna, Chairman of the board of directors of OMVS/SOGEM

Session 2

Leveraging on Inner Development to Support the Transition to Regenerative and Empowering Cities

Session Description:

The session aimed to contribute to increasing the understanding of the need to enhance inner development through outer actions for system changes. Panelists explored and provided examples of how the incorporation of inner development principles and tools such as moral imagination, somatic practices, and nervous regulation can help promote and accelerate the transition to regenerative and empowering cities. The panelists also emphasized the importance of creating safe and meaningful spaces and conditions in cities, especially in public spaces to foster citizens' inner development and inspire climate and sustainability actions.

Panelists:

- Massamba Thioye, Project Executive, United Nations Climate Change Global Innovation Hub
- Jamie Bristow, Public Narrative & Policy Development, Inner Development Goals
- Erik Fernholm, Founder, Aware
- Li Tadaa, Dancer, Holistic Therapist, and Certified Somatic Practitioner
- Phoebe Tickell, Moral Imaginations
- Dina Baenninger, Systems Transformation Architect and founder of Charisma Nova
- Nitin Arora, Project Manager, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub



Session 3

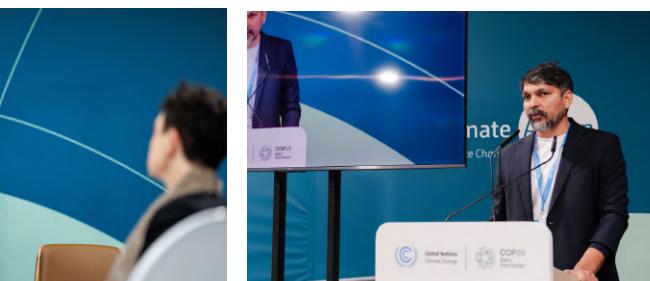
Catalysts of Change: How Culture and Creative Industries Foster Climate Transformation and Innovation

Session Description:

The session aimed to explore the integral role of culture and creative industries in advancing the climate and sustainability agenda. By fostering awareness and inspiring action, these sectors can significantly influence public perceptions, emotions and behaviors related to complex environmental challenges. Through interactive discussions and presentations, the session highlighted examples of successful innovative initiatives including how imagination can be used to shift world views and deep values related to climate change and sustainability challenges.

Panelists:

- Li Tadaa, Dancer, Holistic Therapist, and Certified Somatic Practitioner
- Phoebe Tickell, Moral Imaginations
- Dina Baenninger, Systems Transformation Architect and founder of Charisma Nova
- Nitin Arora, Project Manager, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub



Session 4

Role of Technical Assistance and Blended Finance Models for Catalyzing Innovation in Clean Economy Sectors of Developing Economies

Session Description:

The session focused on the role of blended finance and technical assistance in catalyzing innovation within clean economy sectors, especially for developing economies. The session featured a panel of experts from international financial institutions, government bodies, and private investors, discussing key strategies and best practices to foster innovation and de-risk investments in clean economy sectors. The discussions also explored how technical assistance, when coupled with innovative financial instruments, can reduce market entry barriers, accelerate the flow of capital, and facilitate the scaling up of sustainable projects.

Panelists:

- Sujatha UG, Vice President & Head, Global Partnerships & Net Zero, Invest India
- Matthew Stephenson, Head, Investment and Services, World Economic Forum
- Jagjeet Sareen, Partner, Global Climate Practice, Dalberg Advisors
- Mahendra Singhi, Member of Board & Strategic Advisor, Dalmia Cements, Chair – FICCI Environment & Climate Change Committee
- Nan Li Collins, Senior Director for Investment and Enterprise at UNCTAD
- James Socas, Global Head, of Climate Solutions Business, Investcorp
- Devesh Tripathi, Sr. Assistant Vice President, Global Partnerships, Invest India

Session 5

Documentary Screening - Healing Himalayas

Session Description:

Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Himalayas, the documentary introduced Pradeep Sangwan, an environmental activist whose transformative initiative, Healing Himalayas, is reshaping responsible tourism in the region.

2 Day Two

Session 1

Intergenerational Dialogue: Youth Vision for a Green Digital Future

Session Description:

This interactive session amplified the voices of youth in the discussions around the COP29 Green Digital Action Declaration. It engaged young leaders, innovators, and activists in an intergenerational dialogue to explore their perspectives on digitalization's role in climate action, including how to build inclusive and safe digital spaces. Panelists emphasized the need for meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes including climate negotiations to address issues such as digital literacy, trust in AI, and the sustainable use of technology. The session also stressed the need for intergenerational dialogues to better understand past mistakes and build a sustainable future.

Panelists:

- Tomas Lamanauskas, ITU Deputy Secretary General
- Felipe Paullier, UN ASG for Youth Affairs
- Leyla Hasanova, Youth Climate Champion for COP29
- Hassan Ndugwa, Kofi Annan Foundation Changemaker



Session 2

Global Coalitions for Climate Innovation: Serving People and the Planet

Session Description:

This session focused on global leadership's role in enhancing the development and effective implementation of transformative climate and sustainability innovation to serve people and the planet. The session also underlined the importance of innovation and collaboration for societal progress, calling for a shared vision, integrative approaches, and collective efforts under principles of caring, sharing, and daring. Participants agreed that radical collaboration, innovative global partnerships, inclusive cooperative approaches, innovative technologies, and cohesive business models are essential for promoting the climate and sustainability agenda, particularly in the global south.

Panelists:

- Liburn Aliu, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Republic of Kosovo
- Massamba Thioye, Project Executive, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub
- Hannah Zühlke, Partner, Expert in Circularity, Roland Berger
- Kadir S. Gungor, Chairman, Sustainable Impact Capital & Holding
- Kirsten Dunlop, CEO, Climate KIC



Session 3

Digital Power and ICT's Innovation: Enabling Future Net-Zero Cities

Session Description:

The session brought together experts from various organizations to explore innovative solutions for decarbonizing cities and accelerating the transition to net zero. Using case studies, the panelists showcased practical experiences of how digital innovations are being implemented across industries – including transportation, manufacturing, mining, and steel – to facilitate the green transition.

Panelists:

- Massamba Thioye, Project Executive, United Nations Climate Change Global Innovation Hub
- Victor H. Chen, Chief Green Transformation Officer of Huawei
- Mohan Munasinghe, 2021 Blue Planet Prize Laureate; and Vice Chair of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- Giorgia Rambelli, UTM Urban Transitions Mission Director
- Paolo Gemma, ITU-T SG5 WP2 Chair & WP3 Vice-Chair
- Singleton Zhou, President of Network Consulting & System Integration Services, Huawei GTS
- Richard Cockle, Head of GSMA Innovation Foundry
- Feng Nan, Director of the Biosphere 3 Solutions Pavilion and Chairman of Deep Rock Group



Session 4

Industry Leadership in Advancing Green Economy Goals Through Systems Change and Innovation

Session Description:

This session explored and shared experiences and best practices on the critical role that leadership can play in advancing green economy goals through systems change and innovation. The session highlighted the industry's role in reducing reliance on traditional resources and stressed the importance of energy solutions and partnerships, using the steel industry's CO₂ reduction efforts as an example. The panel agreed that standardized practices, real data and transparency innovation, diverse funding models, partnerships, and global cooperation are key to achieving sustainability and climate goals.

Panelists:

- Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Rachid Firadi, Director of Cooperation, Partnerships, and Communication, Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco
- Nadja Glaeser, Director, Sustainability and Strategy, Deloitte
- Volkan Kara, Chairman, Bain and Company, Türkiye
- Agnes Vinblad, Director, Environment and Sustainable Development, United States Council for International Business



Day Two

Session 5

Climate Change: An Opportunity to Strengthen the Resilience of Transboundary River Basins

Session Description:

This session brought together Ministers, representatives of multilateral financial institutions, climate experts, and development partners to explore innovative solutions and approaches to this global challenge. The session highlighted various conservation, sustainable development, and energy transition initiatives currently being implemented to strengthen the resilience of the Senegal River Basin. The panelists agreed that financial investments need to take into consideration local realities to ensure more effective outcomes.

Panelists:

- Mohamed Abdel Vetaah, OMVS High Commissioner
- Hani Sewilam Ministre égyptien de l'Irrigation et des Ressources en eau
- Djami Diallo, Ministre de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable de la République de Guinée
- Djami Diallo, Ministre de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable de la République de Guinée
- Mamadou Samake, Ministre de l'environnement, de l'assainissement et du développement durable de la République du Mali
- Mohamed Khaled, Ministre du Pétrole et de l'Energie de la République Islamique de Mauritanie Daouda NGOM, Ministre de l'Environnement et de la Transition écologique de la République du Sénégal
- Saroj Kumar Jha, Global Director for the World Bank Group
- Massamba Thioye, Project Executive, United Nations Climate Change Global Innovation Hub



Session 6

SDG Stimulus: Mobilizing Affordable & Predictable Climate Finance for Developing Nations

Session Description:

This session focused on effectively mobilizing affordable and predictable climate finance for developing nations. The panelists explored and shared different approaches that can be used to diversify funding sources beyond the traditional sources of climate finance to improve access to finance and enhance finance delivery. Challenges like financial exclusion and high interest rates were highlighted as obstacles that cannot be overcome by finance alone but require strong policies and global cooperation. The panelists called for scalable solutions and innovation for example through blended financial and green bonds, partnerships, collaboration, and predictable funding models to accelerate the deployment of climate and sustainability solutions.

Panelists:

- Aniket Ghai, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
- Esmyna Javier, Senior Climate Change Specialist (Climate Finance), Asian Development Bank
- Conrad Albrecht, Managing Director, Head, Directorate of Sustainability, Eurasian Development Bank
- Syed Husain Quadri, Director, Resilience and Climate Action Department, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- Sujatha UG, Vice President, Global Partnerships and NetZero, Invest India's



Session 7

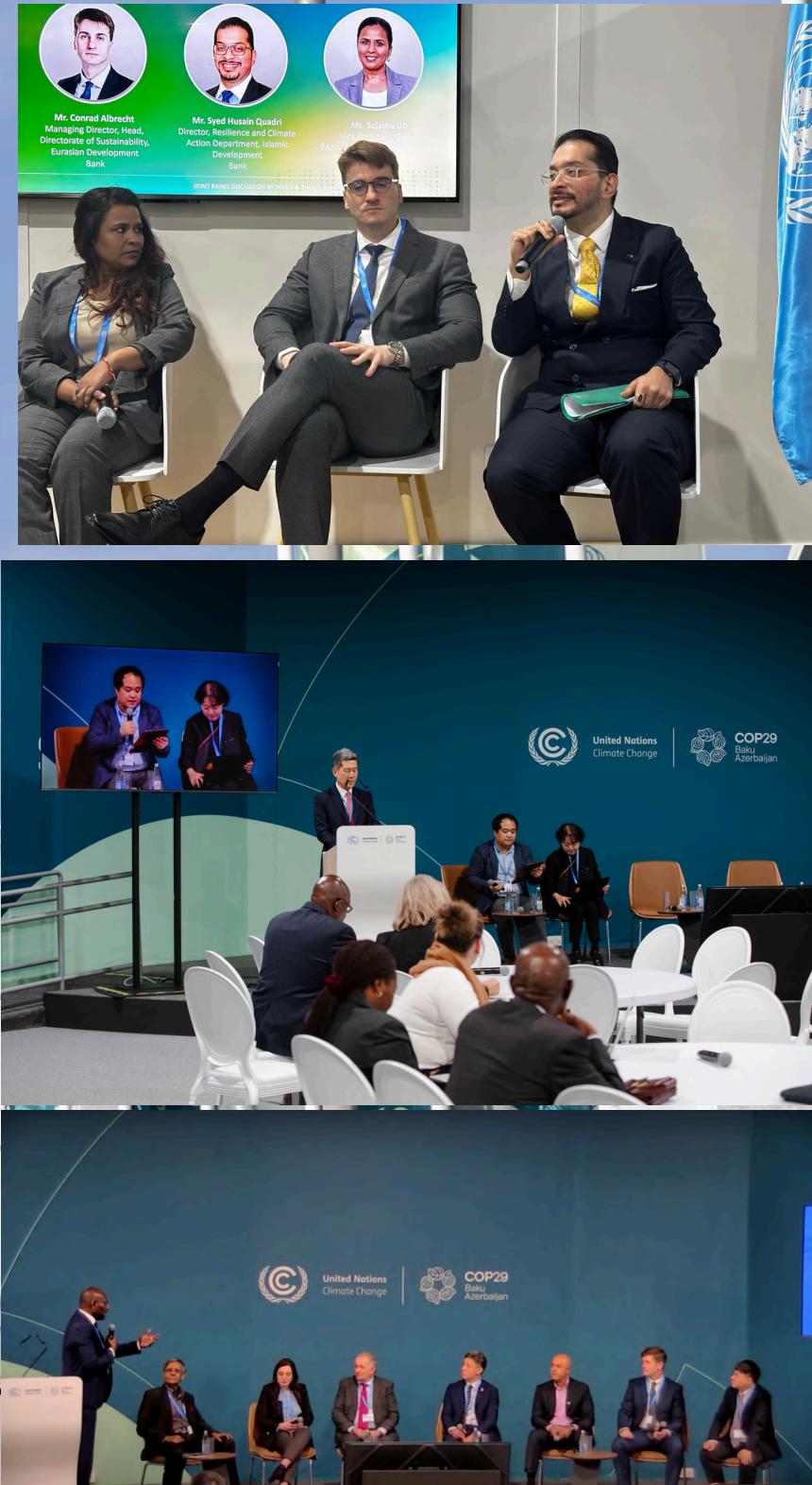
High-Level Session with City Representatives: Understanding Cities' Climate and Sustainability Needs and Priorities

Session Description:

The session led discussions on the identification, development, and upscaling of transformative solutions that address the climate and sustainability needs of cities. It featured high-level statements from Mayors and other high-level city representatives on their current and future climate and sustainability needs and their priorities and challenges going forward. The discussion also introduced the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub's City Challenge Project that aims to incentivize cities to implement transformative climate and sustainability solutions.

Panelists:

- MJ mijeong Park, Ph.D, Research Professor, Kyunghee University
- Lee Kang-deok, Mayor of Pohang City, Republic of Korea
- Anita Schneider, County Mayor of Gießen, Germany
- Innocent Bakulungelo Ssekiziyivu, Mubende Town
- Yahweh Samuel, Council member, the political and technical committee of Rakai, Climate Change Expert
- Didi Aryadi, Assistant Secretary for Development, City of Padang, Indonesia



3 Day Three

Session 1

Sustainability Performance and Metrics

Session Description:

The session focused on approaches towards the measurement, monitoring, and assessment of SDG performance in various sectors and at various scales. The session explored various reporting mechanisms and their efficiency in supporting the decision-makers in implementing the SDGs at both national and international levels. The discussion highlighted the role of metrics in measuring progress beyond GDP, integrating environmental and social impacts, and the necessity of public procurement in accelerating transitions. The session also showcased innovative approaches towards downscaling SDG measurement and assessment and how this can be applied at a sub-national scale - regions, cities, companies, and organizations.

Panelists:

- Phoebe Koundouri, Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business & Technical University of Denmark; President, World Council of Environmental and Resource Economists Associations; Chair, SDSN Global Climate Hub; AE4RIA
- Andrei Geica, Partner Chief Impact and Policy Officer, SPOROS
- Sergio Fernandez de Cordova, Executive Chairman, PVBLIC Foundation
- Arvea Marieni, Director Ecological Transitions Solutions BEAM CUBE; International Affairs, Homes4All
- Markus Müller, Managing Director, Chief Investment Officer of ESG & Global Head of Chief Investment Office, Deutsche Bank
- Ismail Serageldin, Founding Director Emeritus, The Library of Alexandria; Former Vice President, World Bank
- Ketan Patel, Co-founder and CEO, Greater Pacific Capital



Session 2

United Nations Solutions Platform Announcement

Session Description:

The session was used as a platform to announce the launch of the development of the UGH digital platform as well as demonstrate the value that it will deliver to different stakeholder groups. The Digital Platform from the United Nations Climate Change Global Innovation Hub will provide AI-powered matchmaking between public-sector challenges and private-sector solutions, facilitate the sharing of resources and knowledge, and enable all these stakeholders to work together more effectively toward sustainable development goals and economic mobilization. The initiative emphasizes a vision-driven approach to innovation, focusing on upscaling existing solutions and developing new ones.

Panelists:

- Fernando Reino da Costa, CEO, Unipartner
- Luis Neves, CEO, GeSI
- Massamba Thiouye, Project Executive, United Nations Climate Change Global Innovation Hub
- Justin Keeble, Managing Director for Global Sustainability, Google Cloud



Session 3

Advancing Sustainable Policies with Digital Technologies

Session Description:

The session featured a panel of experts from government, industry, and leading organizations discussing actionable strategies to combat climate change, outlining the latest scientific findings, and examining successful policy frameworks across the globe. Panelists delved into specific recommendations, including how aligning digital and sustainability strategies can help accelerate the transition to clean energy, promote circular economy models, and boost investment in resilient ecosystems. The session emphasized the role that digital transformation can play particularly in the global south, where digital infrastructure and tax reforms are crucial for development. Financial mechanisms such as green bonds were noted to have the potential to support and accelerate digital transformation and climate initiatives that aim to create a sustainable and inclusive digital future.

Panelists:

- Olga Skorokhodova, Head of Caucasus and Central Asia, Government Relations and Public Policy, Emerging Markets for Google
- Alessandro Fracassetti, Ambassador UNDP Egypt
- Mary de Wysocki, Chief Sustainability Officer, Cisco
- Bernhard Lorentz, Managing Partner and Global Consulting Sustainability & Climate Leader at Deloitte
- Henrique Dollabella, Director at the Ministry of Management and Innovation in Public Services
- Clever Gatete, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa



Session 4

Bridging the Gap: The Role of Science and Policy in Addressing Global Challenges

Session Description:

The session highlighted the importance of open science as one basic requirement to address the core human needs, with an emphasis on those arising from climate change. The session also showcased the Open Science Charter campaign launched at the UGH pavilion at COP28 which has gathered the voices of thousands of scientists and policymakers from around the world to call for broader access to and fairer circulation of knowledge. The session noted that transformative Science has the potential to address global challenges but needs to be collaborative and transdisciplinary bringing in a systemic approach. Panelists also noted an existing disconnect between science and policy and panelists proposed the co-designing of solutions with multiple stakeholders and investing in their capacities to ensure the effective application and implementation of science during policy-making processes.

Panelists:

- Salvatore Arico, CEO, International Science Council
- Stephan Kuster, Head of External Affairs, Frontiers
- Jason Rohr, University of Notre Dame, International Champion, Frontiers Planet Prize
- Laia Barberà, Head of Climate Strategy, World Economic Forum
- Phoebe Koundouri, Athens University of Economics and Business, Chair UN SDSN Global Climate Hub



4 Day Four

Session 1

Accelerating Urban and Rural Transformation: Introducing the City Challenge

Session Description:

The session introduced the why, what, when, and how of UGIH's City Challenge project. The challenge aims to empower cities to take on climate action by unlocking private capital to accelerate innovation and achieve ambitious climate targets and will involve a three-phase approach: defining city visions, identifying gaps, and designing prizes to address these gaps. Cities like Pohang and Rakai emphasized the need for collaboration, expertise, and digital technologies to achieve their sustainability goals. The panelists recommended that the challenge should encourage cities to set targets based on needs, not just possibilities, and consider interdependencies between urban and rural areas. The challenge should also create a market for innovative solutions in cities and promote a sustainability mindset among cities.

Panelists:

- Lee Kang-deok, Mayor of Pohang City, Republic of Korea
- Yahweh Samuel, Council member, the political and technical committee of Rakai, Climate Change Expert
- David Babson, Executive Vice President, Climate & Energy, X PRIZE
- Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, Chair of SDSN Global Climate Hub, Co-Chair of SDSN Europe
- Luis Neves, CEO, GeSI
- Jonas Schor, Partner, Urban Impact Agency
- Freedom-Kai Phillips, Director, Deloitte Center for Sustainable Progress
- Pourya Salehi, Head of Urban Research, Innovation, and Development Team, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
- Matthias Boensel, CEO, viventure



Session 2

AI for Climate: Overcoming Barriers to Scale

Session Description:

This session focused on the need to develop innovative financial instruments including impact bonds, blue bonds, and climate resilience bonds that can address the specific needs and challenges of different sectors and regions. The speakers also explored how green bonds can be structured to attract more investors and ensure transparency in the use of the funds. By showcasing examples of AI applications for climate such as eco-friendly routing in Google Maps, methane reduction, climate finance and optimization tools for energy systems, the panelists agreed that AI has the potential to contribute to both the climate and sustainability agenda. The panelists also called for systemic integration, collaboration, and capacity to develop, deploy, and scale AI solutions more effectively.

Panelists:

- Dominic Waughray, Executive Vice President, WBCSD
- Uday Khemka, Vice-Chairman, SUN Group
- Thomas Spencer, Power Sector Modeller, IEA
- Antonia Gawel, Global Director Sustainability P&E, Google
- Henriques Dollabella, Director at the Ministry of Management and Innovation in Public Services
- Michal Nachmany, Founder and CEO, Climate Policy Radar
- Tom Mtenje, Senior Manager for External Relations, GiveDirectly
- Elchin Jafarov, Senior Research Scientist, Woodwell Climate Research Center
- Carolina Urmeneta, Program Director Waste & Circular Economy, Global Methane Hub
- Kevin Brege, Head of Climate and Sustainability, Google.org
- Gabrielle Beran, Director of Climate Action Centre for Public Impact



Session 3

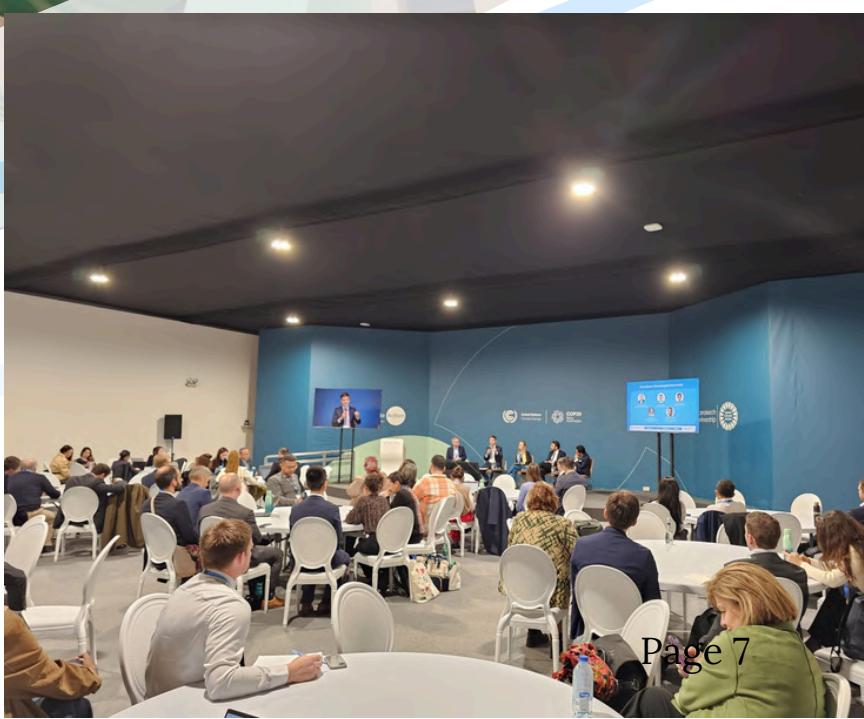
Innovative Financial Instruments: Sustainable Finance and Green Bonds

Session Description:

This session focused on the need to develop innovative financial instruments including impact bonds, blue bonds, and climate resilience bonds that can address the specific needs and challenges of different sectors and regions. The speakers also explored how green bonds can be structured to attract more investors and ensure transparency in the use of the funds. The session highlighted the need for building a stronger global database that can help financing companies better understand sustainable finance, track sustainability funds, and enhance transparency especially given the disparate and discrete nature of current initiatives. The panelists also noted the need for radical collaboration across sectors (corporate, government, finance) to unlock the trillions needed for sustainable finance and scale up solutions faster.

Panelists:

- Catherine Atkin, Climate Data Policy Initiative Co-chair, CodeX, The Stanford Center for Legal Informatics
- Jim Andrew, Chief Sustainability Officer, Executive Vice President, and Executive Committee member, PepsiCo
- Ömer Karademir, Director General of Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Treasury and Finance, Republic of Türkiye
- Andre Abadie, Managing Director, Center for Carbon Transition, J.P. Morgan
- Manish Pant, Executive Vice President, International Operations, Schneider Electric



5 Day Five

Session 1

Faith and Sustainability: A Spiritual Approach Towards Environmental Responsibility

Session Description:

The session brought together individuals from diverse faith traditions and spiritual backgrounds to engage in meaningful conversations about the intersections of faith, spirituality, and environmental responsibility. The panelists highlighted the importance of inner development for systemic change, highlighting the connection between human consciousness and societal systems. The panelists also noted that there is a need for holistic approaches that combine spirituality with concrete actions to address environmental and societal challenges. The session called for a new diplomacy and public conversion, focusing on spirituality's role in mobilizing hope and social justice. Spirituality has the potential to build capacity for a broader vision and better choices such as sustainable production and consumption that are essential for systemic change.

Panelists:

- Massamba Thioye, Project Executive, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub
- Sister Maureen Goodman, Programme Director, Brahma Kumaris, UK
- Emilce Cude, Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America
- Tanvir Tabir, Counsellor (Political & Projects), Embassy of Bangladesh, Berlin



Session 2

Successfully Financing Green Projects

Session Description:

The session featured experts from various development banks and focused on financing options for global green and sustainable projects. The panel highlighted examples of various innovative financial instruments that can be used to finance green projects especially in the global south including blended financing, guarantees, crowdfunding, carbon credit financing, climate risk insurance, and impact investing. Carbon pricing was highlighted as a crucial driver for green investments, with a call for better market regulations and private sector engagement to enhance adaptation finance and mitigation outcomes. The session also highlighted the value addition of multilateral development banks including the use of a wide array of financing instruments and the expertise in creating enabling environments and initiatives that can overcome risks faced by the private sector.

Panelists:

- Diana Schröter, Chief of Staff, viventure
- Jürgen Kern, Chief Sustainability Officer, KFW Group
- Gregor Shaler, Climate Finance Advisor at the GIZ Competence Center Climate Change
- Olatunji Tusuf, Lead Climate Adaptation Specialist, Climate Change & Environment, Islamic Development Bank
- Esmyna P. Javier, Climate Change Specialist (Climate Finance), Asian Development Bank
- Edward Okot Omoya, Environmental and Social Management Specialist, East African Development Bank
- Matthias Boensel, CEO, viventure



Session 3

Mobilizing Science and Technological Innovation: Enhancing Climate Resilience

Session Description:

The session highlighted the urgent need for science and technology to guide us through the multifaceted crises the world faces—ranging from climate change, biodiversity loss, pandemics such as COVID-19, and economic downturns due to geopolitical tension. Science and innovation can play a critical role in addressing global frameworks such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030. The session also highlighted the need to strengthen partnerships and radical collaboration across a broad range of stakeholders such as governments, private agencies, and academia to enable transparent and secure data sharing and protocol development. The session also called for interdisciplinary collaboration, co-designing solutions with all stakeholders, and accelerating technological deployment.

Panelists:

- Phoebe Koundouri, Director, Sustainable Development Unit, ATHENA Information Technologies
- Stephan Kuster, Head of External Affairs, Frontiers
- Nura Jibo, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, African Climate Change Research Centre
- Adrian Alberto Martinez Blanco, Director, Climate Route Association
- Venkata Chunduru, Director, Arcadis



Session 4

Climate Finance for Sustainable Regions and Cities

Session Description:

This session focused on navigating the pronounced mismatch between traditional financing sources and projects related to green technology, mitigation, and adaptation. It provided an overview of novel financial instruments and funding schemes that are gaining importance for stakeholders in the climate sector. The session also explored the role of non-state actors not just in providing funding but also in supporting the longevity of mitigation and adaptation initiatives. Based on recent initiatives and case studies, the panel highlighted tailored solutions in the form of existing and novel financial instruments, sources of finance based on their relevance to specific sustainable projects, and the role of intermediaries such as accelerators, project preparation facilities, and online platforms.

Panelists:

- Phoebe Koundouri, Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business & Technical University of Denmark; President World Council of Environmental and Resource Economists Associations; Chair SDSN Global Climate Hub; AE4RIA
- María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Defense of Ecuador; Former President of the UN General Assembly, Executive Director, GWL Voices for Change and Inclusion
- Ebun Akinsete, Senior Researcher, AE4RIA Network; Chair, SDSN Global Climate Hub
- Shaun Fitzgerald, Director, Centre for Climate Repair, University of Cambridge
- Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda; UN Climate High-Level Champion for Egypt
- Conrad Landis, Postdoctoral Researcher, RESEES Lab, Athens University of Economics and Business; Head of Sustainability Finance, SDSN Global Climate Hub
- Hyginus 'Gene' Leon, Executive Director, Development Bank for Resilient Prosperity

5

Day Five

Session 5

Launch of the Global Matchmaking Platform (GMP) for Industrial Decarbonisation

Session Description:

This event marked the launch of the Global Matchmaking Platform (GMP) for Industrial Decarbonisation, a facility allowing emerging and developing countries to raise technical and financial assistance requests from the international community. The launch event was an opportunity for Ministers from participating countries and heads of globally leading technical and financial institutions to share their thoughts about the GMP and launch the platform for the common benefit of all. The Global Matchmaking Platform (GMP) for industrial decarbonization will play an important role in addressing investment, technology transfer, and capacity building in emerging and developing countries.

Panelists:

- H.E. Lutfe Siddiqi, Chief Adviser's Special Envoy for International Affairs, Bangladesh
- H.E Maisa Rojas Corradi, Minister of Environment, Chile
- H.E Elisa Facio, Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining, Uruguay
- Stefan Wenzel, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Germany
- Muhammet Kasim Gonallu, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industry and Technology, Türkiye
- Victoria Kyrivieva, Deputy Minister of Environment Protection and Natural Resources, Ukraine
- Ciyong Zou, Deputy to the Director General and Managing Director of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development
- Tariye Gbadegesin, Chief Executive Officer, CIF
- Jo Tyndall, Director of Environment Director, OECD
- Demetrios Papathanasiou, Global Director, Energy and Extractives, World Bank



6 Day Six

Session 1

A Digital Future for a Greener Planet: Emerging Tools and Technologies for Climate Mitigation

Session Description:

This session explored how emerging digital tools and technologies can be applied to a wide range of climate mitigation activities including renewable energy optimization, carbon emissions tracking, climate modelling and forecasting, and sustainable supply chain management. The panel opened with the recognition that despite technological advancements, around 2.6 billion people still lack access to the internet. It was agreed that while technology holds promise for sustainability, robust environmental governance is still lacking. The panel also highlighted the transformative potential of technology for environmental sustainability, the critical role of collaboration across sectors, and the pressing need for inclusive education to equip future generations. However, significant challenges related to costs, energy usage, and equitable access remain.

Panelists:

- Reina Otsuka, Lead, Digital Innovation for Nature, Climate and Energy, UNDP
- Stephan Minas, Vice-Chair, UN Climate Technology Centre and Network)
- Raya Makawi, Regional Leader, Middle East & Africa, Sustainability, 3M Gulf Ltd.
- Chris Poulloura, Chief Technology Officer, Blockchain and Climate Institute
- David Frank, Director Policy Engagement, Environmental Sustainability Policy Team, Corporate, External & Legal Affairs, Microsoft



Session 2

Scaling Climate Impact: Green Innovations in Adaptation Technologies

Session Description:

This session centered on policies and emerging technological innovations that can foster climate adaptation, how such technologies can be deployed effectively across different geographical and economic contexts, and the challenges faced by governments and cities when implementing these solutions. The panelists emphasized the need for more climate adaptation technologies such as early warning systems, risk mapping, and machine learning, noting that green climate funds are essential for effective solutions. The panelists agreed that despite limited resources, particularly in the global south, adaptation technologies and cooperative efforts offer hope for meaningful change. Speakers also underscored the importance of collaboration, data-driven decision-making, and international platforms in accelerating progress.

Panelists:

- Kerryne Zennelle Kenneale James, Minister, Ministry for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy, Grenada
- Partha Hefaz Shaikh, Director, Programmes and Policy Advocacy, WaterAid
- Adam Elman, Head of Sustainability, Europe, Middle East and Africa, Google
- Jui-Wen Chen, Association of Sustainable Ecological Engineering Development (ASEED)
- Maxime Bureau, EMEA Government Affairs & Sustainability Director, 3M



Session 3

Showcasing Innovative Projects – Part 1

Session Description:

In line with the objectives of the UGIH, this session showcased examples of innovative projects ideated during the recently held UGIH Systemic Innovation Projects. The session introduced the projects and highlighted what, why, how, and who of the projects. The panelists also deliberated and shared ideas, experiences, and plans from the ideation to the implementation phases. The panel addressed the role of systemic innovation in developing climate-resilient solutions, sharing insights from projects in energy storage, sustainable and resilient settlements, sustainable agriculture, and biogas production. The session also underscored the importance of collaboration and partnerships with local governments, and community engagement for the successful development and successful deployment of innovative and transformative solutions.

Panelists:

- Babu Padmanabhan, Managing Director & Chief Knowledge Officer Steer World
- Hongbo XU, Managing Director, Open Power
- Helmut Tündermann, Head of Project Development & Sales Mele
- Nitin Arora, Project Manager UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub



Session 4

Viability of Integrating Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Technologies into the Energy Transition

Session Description:

In the event, the Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition (CEET) delved into the complex role of Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) technologies in mitigating climate change, highlighting its integration into global, regional, and national frameworks. The session explored how CCUS can contribute to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, particularly through Article 6 mechanisms that promote cooperative approaches. Challenges such as international policy harmonization, regulatory issues, and the distribution of technology were also discussed, with a focus on targeting high-emission areas. Panelists called for international collaboration, innovation, policy support, and investment to accelerate CCUS deployment.

Panelists:

- Rana Ghoneim, Chief, Division of Energy and Climate Action at UNIDO
- Nitin Arora, Programme Management Officer, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Mercedes Maroto-Valer, Director and Deputy Principal UK Industrial Decarbonisation Research and Innovation Centre (IDRIC), Heriot-Watt University and CEET
- Mohammad Abu Zahra, Head of Middle East and North Africa Region, Global CCS Institute and CEET
- Tobias Orthen, UN Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition
- Radia Sedaoui, Chief, Energy Section, ESCWA



6 Day Six

Session 5



Showcasing Innovative Projects – Part 1

Session Description:

In line with the objectives of the UGIH, this session showcased examples of innovative projects ideated during the recently held UGIH Systemic Innovation Projects. The session introduced the UGIH Digital Platform that seeks to drive the development and deployment of innovations for transformative climate and sustainability actions. A digital toolbox for the Urban Transition Planning project was also presented emphasizing the need for policy and business model innovations. Further, Inner Development Goals showcased projects such as the Community Handprint project and Water Conscious Society that focus on integrating behavioral science with climate innovation to foster regenerative cities.

Panelists:

- Jamie Bristow, Public Narrative & Policy Development, IDG
 - Laila Martins, UN & IDG Programs Lead – Germany, IDG
 - Jeroen Janss, Co-Founder, Inner Green Deal and IDG Green Network representative
 - Klaus Mertens, UN & IDG Engagement Lead – Germany, IDG and IDG Water Network representative
 - Helena Harnik, Co-Founder & Program Executive Director, The Synergist and IDG Sustainable Health & Well-being Network representative
 - Stephan de Haas, Head of Co-Creation and Client Consulting, T-Systems International



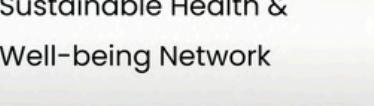
Showcasing Our Projects

Ideation Phase:

- **15** new ideas!
- **Core Areas:** Access to Services and Nutrition & Health
- **Milestones 2025:** Workshops, pilots, engagement, scalable global solutions.
- **Vision:** Systemic change with measurable impact.

Concept Phase:

- Community Handprint
- Water Conscious Society
- Sustainable Health & Well-being Network

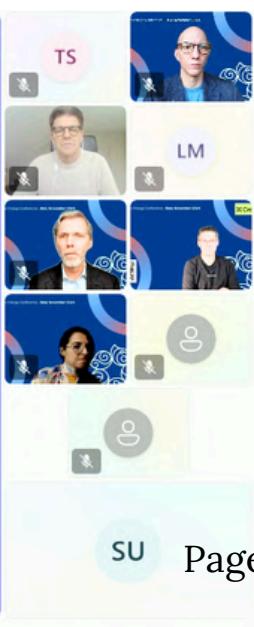


UN Climate Change Conference - Baku November 2024

Developing a Digital Toolbox for Urban Transitions Planning incl. Mobility

Session 5: Showcasing the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub's Global Innovation Projects





8 Day Eight

Session 1

Mediterranean Cooperation for Innovative Environment and Resource Governance

Session Description:

This session introduced the Mediterranean Association of Environmental Resource Economists (Meda Area), which aims to unite researchers from the Mediterranean region to address issues like transitioning away from fossil fuels, renewable energy scaling, waste management, pollution, water scarcity, and natural disasters. The panelists emphasized the importance of local solutions, data sharing, and leveraging digital tools to enhance research and decision-making.

Panelists:

- Carmen Arguedas, President AERNA/Professor, Autonomous University of Madrid
- Raja Chakir, Steering Committee, FAERE/Research Director, Paris Saclay Applied Economic INRAE-AgroParisTech
- Shouro Dasgupta, Researcher, CMCC/Lecturer, Ca' Foscari University of Venice/Visiting Senior Fellow, Grantham Research Institute
- Aldo Ravazzi, Chief Economist, Italian Ministry of Environment & Energy Security/Vice-president, Plan Bleu for Development & Environment of Mediterranean
- Simone Borghesi, President, EAERE | Director, FSR Climate – EUI/Vice-Rector for International Relations, University of Siena



Session 2

Country Perspectives on Carbon Registries: Lessons, Challenges, and Opportunities Post-COP 29

Session Description:

This session convened country representatives for a focused discussion on key considerations in the operationalization and development of registry systems. The session highlighted both the barriers that countries face—such as technical capacity, regulatory hurdles, and financing—and the opportunities for increasing efficiency, streamlining access, and enhancing transparency. Participants also explored reflections on what potential buyers and host countries seek from these registries, including how they align expectations, particularly considering COP29 outcomes. Additionally, the session touched upon the implications of the UNFCCC's Articles 6.4 and 6.2, examining how these frameworks for international carbon markets are shaping the architecture of registries.

Panelists:

- Reina Otsuka, Digital Lead for Nature and Climate, UNDP
- Massamba Thioye, Project Executive, Global Innovation Hub, UNFCCC
- Gemma Torras, Climate Change Group, World Bank
- Sim Wi-Min, Director, Carbon Planning Division, National Environment Agency, Government of Singapore
- Raegan Chunga, National Project Coordinator – CBIT, BTRs and NCs to the UNFCCC, Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Namibia
- Rachel Boti-Douyoua, Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecology Transition In charge of Carbon Markets & Pricing initiatives



Session 3

The First Teraton (1,000 Gigaton) Opportunity in the World

Session Description:

This session brought together incubators and leading stakeholders that support companies as solution providers. The session emphasized the need to shift from a static emissions reduction mindset to one that addresses global human needs and avoids emissions. The session also underscored the urgency of moving beyond traditional sectoral approaches to climate action and embracing a broader, inclusive innovation agenda. Key takeaways included the importance of startups and incubators in driving innovation, the need for a human-centric approach, and the potential of early-stage actors like SMEs and startups in achieving transformative climate solutions.

Panelists:

- Muferihat Kamil Ahmed, Minister, Ministry of Labour and Skills, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- Smita Rakesh, Partner, Social Alpha
- Leandro Costa, Head of Innovation Park Tech in Sao Jose dos Campos
- Paul Westin, Senior Business Developer, International Swedish Energy Agency
- Pourya Salehi, Head of Urban Research, Innovation and Development Team, ICLEI
- Charlie Wilson, Professor of Energy and Climate Change and Senior Research Fellow Energy Programme, Oxford University
- Fabiana Contreras, Manager, Avoided Emissions, WBSCD
- Dennis Pamlin, Executive Director, NCI/Senior Advisor, RISE
- Massamba Thioye, Project Executive, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub
- Jay Hennesy, Director, NCI/Senior Project Leader, RISE



Session 4

Data for 21st Century Governance

Session Description:

The session focused on the importance of data for 21st-century governance, emphasizing the need to move from sector-based approaches to systemic thinking. Key points included the shift from marginal emission reductions to a sustainable future, the challenges of integrating human needs data, and the potential of brain science to inform decision-making. The session concluded with a call to action for an integrated and innovative governance system.

Panelists:

- Adam Bly, Founder and CEO, System
- Riyong Kin, Head of Sustainability Transitions (STR), the European Environment Agency
- Mariell Juhlin, Head of Programmes, SustainGov
- Ruth Reichstein, Cabinet Member, President European Commission
- James Hodson, CEO, AI4Good
- Ganesh Das, Chief, Collaboration & Innovation, TATA Power
- Harris Eye, Lead and Senior Fellow for Neuro-Policy, Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy & Executive Director of the Brain Capital Alliance
- Dennis Pamlin, Executive Director, NCI/Senior Advisor, RISE
- Massamba Thioye, Project Executive, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub
- Jay Hennesy, Director, NCI/Senior Project Leader, RISE



8 Day Eight

Session 5

The Outdoor and Sports Industry as a Leading Climate Solution Provider

Session Description:

The session highlighted the outdoor and sports industry's role in developing climate solutions, emphasizing its potential to reduce emissions and promote sustainable lifestyles. Using examples from companies like Icebug, Salomon, and Intersport, the session showcased innovative practices, such as carbon-negative products and community repair initiatives. The session called for integrating outdoor activities into urban planning and policies to foster healthier, more sustainable communities. The discussion also touched on the shift from a compliance-driven agenda to a proactive approach driven by the desire to achieve societal benefits, including better relationships with customers and investors.

Panelists:

- Dennis Pamlin, Executive Director, NCI/Senior Advisor, RISE
- Massamba Thiouye, Project Executive, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub
- Pourya Salehi, Head of Urban Research, Innovation and Development Team, ICLEI
- Dina Urge-Vorsatz, Vice-Chair, IPCC
- David Ekelund, Co-Founder and Co-CEO, Icebug
- Christiane Ferreira da Silva, Secretary of Environment, City of Belem
- Emma P. (Mason) Zwiebler, Interim CEO, World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (WFSGI)
- Ben Blischek, Senior Manager, ESG products & Circularity, IIC-INTERSPORT International Corporation
- Marie-Laure Piednoir, Global Sustainability and Impact Director, Salomon
- Simon Hartwell Christensen, Development Consultant Sillkeborg



Session 6

Innovative Approaches to Advance Sustainable Development at the Food-Climate Nexus | Feeding the World Sustainably

Session Description:

The session was grounded in Deloitte's upcoming report "Turning Point: Feeding the world sustainably", and examined impacts on food security, costs of inaction, and economic opportunity to advance climate and nature action. Convening distinguished leaders from government, private sector, and food leaders, the discussion focused on impacts and dependencies across food systems highlighting the economic case for initiatives at the nature-climate nexus and explored the potential for innovation and nature-based solutions. Improving productivity and technology, decarbonizing agriculture, and reducing waste were identified as critical strategies. The discussion also emphasized the importance of policy, multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance, indigenous knowledge, and insurance in driving sustainable food systems, with examples from California and global initiatives.

Panelists:

- Freedom-Kai Philips, Director, Deloitte Center for Sustainable Progress
- Pradeep Philip, Lead Partner, Deloitte Access Economics, Australia
- Samule Assefa, Director, California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation | Chair, California Strategic Growth Council
- Martima Fleckenstein, Global Policy Director, Food, WWF
- Liz Henderson, Head of Climate Risk Advisory, Aon
- Allan Kroeger, Director, Nature and Climate, Satelligence
- James Leslie, Global Programme Manager, Food and Agricultural Commodities Systems, UNDP



Session 7

Empowering Climate Action Through Education: Closing Knowledge and Skills Gaps

Session Description:

The session explored the integral role of the education sector in promoting transformative climate and sustainability action including through inspiring action, setting the right expectations, and promoting industry-academia collaboration to enhance climate literacy and resilience. By fostering awareness and inspiring action, these sectors can significantly influence public perceptions and behaviors related to environmental challenges. Through interactive discussions and presentations, the session highlighted successful initiatives such as the Global Alliance of Universities for Climate, and the potential of such creative solutions in addressing climate change. Panelists also discussed the need to close knowledge and skills gaps, emphasizing the importance of broader green skills and transformative climate education.

Panelists:

- MJ Mijeong Park, Ph.D, Research Professor, Kyunghee University
- Marianne Mensah Soulez Lariviere, CEO, Climate Innovation Education
- Cen Li, CEO, Dawn Education Technology
- Gayatri Chauhan, Founder & CEO, BuzzOnEarth | President, Gaia the Earth Foundation
- Peter Kent, President, International Confederation of Principals
- Azer Babayev, Dean, School of Public and International Affairs, ADA University



Session 8

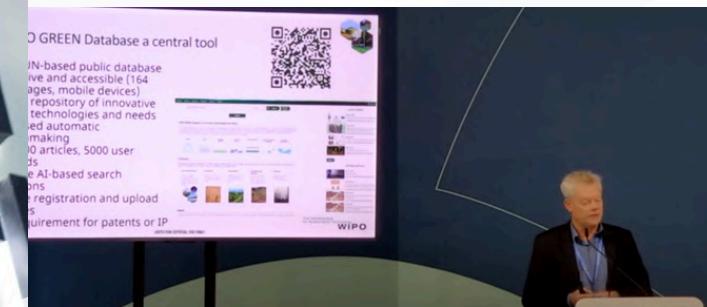
Accelerating Transformative Innovations: Showcasing Climate Solutions

Session Description:

The session highlighted examples of transformative climate and sustainability solutions and offered a platform for solution providers to present their work. The solutions highlighted included technologies to address both climate mitigation and adaptation, for example a digital infrastructure for climate finance and carbon markets, and a matchmaking tool that is linking a database of 130,000 green technologies and innovations.

Panelists:

- Nitin Arora, Project Manager, United Nations Climate Change Global Innovation Hub
- Peter Oksenhorn, Green Technology and Research Manager, World Intellectual Property Organization
- Jose Jacob K, Founder Director & Curator, TIA Summit, Bangalore
- Wes Geisenberger, VP, Sustainability & ESG, HBAR Foundation



9 Day Nine

Session 1

Start-ups Moving Beyond Product Substitution for Gigatons of Impact

Session Description:

This session focused on how to identify and support leading start-ups, so they provide more than product substitution. It presented start-ups that have been assessed with NCIs full climate impact assessment and discussed how start-ups could exponentially grow their positive climate impact. The session also emphasized the need for solutions that enhance human lives without increasing carbon emissions and highlighted the need to go beyond product substitution to focus on system transformation.

Panelists:

- Erik Rönnqvist, COO, Creative Optimization
- Pia Lawson, Marketing Manager, Energy Opticon
- Johan Kensby, Co-Founder and CTO, Utilifeed
- Louise Berg, Visionary and Founder, Sibship
- Vishal Singhal, Founder, Temperate Technologies
- Sam Issa, Founder and CEO, Nanotextile
- Ganesh Das, Chief, Collaboration & Innovation, TATA Power
- Felix Creutzig, PI at MCC Berlin and Bennett Chair for Innovation and Policy Acceleration, University of Sussex
- Massamba Thioye, Project Executive, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub
- Dennis Pamlin, Executive Director, NCI/Senior Advisor, RISE
- Jay Hennessy, Director, NCI/Senior Project Leader, RISE



Session 2

Avoided Emissions and a Climate Solution Agenda

Session Description:

The session discussed how to support an expanded climate and innovation agenda, as well as how a full impact support system can be integrated as a reference system. The panelists highlighted the need to shift the climate agenda from emission reductions to providing solutions that support a flourishing life. The session also emphasized the need for a global sustainability perspective and the role of startups in driving innovative climate solutions

Panelists:

- Pourya Salehi, Head of Urban Research, Innovation and Development Team, ICLEI
- Bram van der Grinten, Founder, Director and Head of Impact Tool Development, Impact Forecast
- Marvin Henry, Climate Action and Avoided Emissions, WBSCD
- Laura Beaulier, CEO, Climate Dividends
- Mariko Takatani, Assistant Director, Global Environmental Affairs Office, GX Policy Group, METI
- Marco Duso, Partner, EMEA Sustainability Leader, Strategy & Transaction, EY
- James Vrakey, CFO, Icebug
- Stefan Henningson, Climate Specialist, Nordea
- Dennis Pamlin, Executive Director, NCI/Senior Advisor, RISE



Session 3

Launching the Flourishing Lives on a Flourishing Planet 4 All (FLP4ALL) Initiative

Session Description:

The session featured the launch of the "Flourishing Lives on a Flourishing Planet for All" (FLP4all) initiative, which emphasizes the need to shift focus from reducing emissions to providing flourishing lives. Key points included the importance of low energy demand futures, business model innovations, and the role of cities in driving sustainable solutions. Metrics like health outcomes, access to nature, and brain capital were highlighted as crucial for measuring success. Practical examples from companies demonstrated how to integrate sustainability with human well-being, advocating for a holistic approach that balances economic growth with environmental and social benefits.

Panelists:

- Charlie Wilson, Professor of Energy and Climate Change and Senior Research Fellow Energy Programme, Oxford University
- Anders Wijkman, Co-President, Club of Rome
- Harris Eye, Lead and Senior Fellow for Neuro-Policy, Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy & Executive Director of the Brain Capital Alliance
- Ganesh Des, Chief, Collaboration and Innovation, TATA Power
- David Ekelund, Co-Founder and co-CEO, Icebug
- Pourya Salehi, Head of Urban Research, Innovation and Development Team, ICLEI
- Dennis Pamlin, Executive Director, NCI/Senior Advisor, RISE
- Massamba Thioye, Project Executive, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub



Session 4

Future in Focus: Youth for Transformative Climate Action

Session Description:

This session brought together youth leaders driving climate action and the organizations that support youth-led initiatives. It provided a platform to showcase innovations led by young people, highlighting impactful projects and technologies aimed at addressing the climate crisis. Additionally, the session explored the unique challenges youth face in their efforts to tackle climate change and fostered discussions on how these obstacles can be overcome. Through sharing experiences and strategies, the session highlighted the role of youth in promoting transformative climate action, and the need to involve them in designing the future

Panelists:

- Samia Dumbuya, COP 29's Climate and Environment Youth Delegate representing the UK
- Miroslav Polzer, Founder and CEO, IAAI
- Pooja Tilwawala, Founder and Executive Director, Youth Climate Collaborative
- Stephanny Olivieri, Project Lead, Youth and Environment Europe
- Clara Butto, UNFCCC Communications Fellow
- Madina Jafarzade, President, UFAZ Psychology Club
- Gayatri Chauhan, Founder and CEO, BuzzonEarth/President, Gaia the Earth Foundation



10 Day Ten

Session 1

Incentivizing Low Carbon Cities: Digital Tools for Sustainable Urban Development

Session Description:

The session focused on the impacts of digitalization and technology in cities, emphasizing their potential to create wide-ranging opportunities and drive economic growth. The conversation highlighted how technology could address significant regional challenges, such as food security, by promoting smart agriculture, which is essential for mitigating the effects of climate change and benefiting rural areas. Additionally, the panelists noted that expanding financial inclusion through digitalization makes transactions more efficient and can help direct planning and resources to underserved areas. The panelists acknowledged challenges related to acquiring high-quality data and equipment, which are vital for the successful integration of urban technologies. Despite these obstacles, cooperation with the private sector and international partners presents growth opportunities. The panelists saw the younger generation as a beacon of hope for advancing digital tools in urban planning, motivated by their desire for change and future-oriented mindset.

Panelists:

- Marciano Dasai, Minister of Spatial Planning and Environment, Suriname
- Ovais Sarmad, Steering Committee Vice-Chair, Greenhouse Gas Protocol, Former Deputy
- Pramod Kumar Singh, Senior Director – Research & Programmes, Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE), India
- Mahmoud Fath-Allah, Director, Department of Environmental and Meteorological Affairs (EMA), League of Arab States (LAS)
- Animesh Kumar, Head, Office in Bonn, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Yasemin Kologlu, Senior Fellow, Architecture 2030 Inc

Session 2

Showcasing Innovative Projects

Session Description:

In line with the objectives of the UGIH, this session showcased examples of innovative projects ideated during the recently held UGIH Systemic Innovation Projects. The session introduced the projects and highlighted what, why, how, and who of the projects. The panelists also deliberated and shared ideas, experiences, and plans from the ideation to the implementation phases. The showcased initiatives emphasized skill development and community-driven sustainability, showcasing scalable models for a greener future.

Panelists:

- Smitha Mishra, Founder and CEO, Fandoro Technologies Pvt Ltd
- Clinton Aigbayboa, Director, cidb Centre of Excellence, University of Johannesburg
- Gayatri Chauhan, Founder & CEO, BuzzOnEarth | President, Gaia the Earth Foundation
- Nitin Arora, Project Manager, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub

Session 3

Systemic Management Innovation: Enhancing Urban Green Spaces for Climate Benefits

Session Description:

This session explored the benefits of investing and integrating green digital infrastructure. The panelists also shared best practices and challenges in integrating green digital technologies into urban settings. The discussion highlighted the growing need for capacity building and innovative solutions to address the challenges of creating and maintaining green spaces in urban areas. Green spaces provide essential benefits such as fresh air, cooling effects during heat waves, and improved quality of life, especially in densely populated cities. The panelists agreed that there is a clear need for systemic action, capacity building, and innovative partnerships to expand and sustain green spaces, benefiting communities and enhancing urban resilience.

Panelists:

- Hamid Abakar Souleymane, Deputy Director General of Chad NMA, Ministry of Civil Aviation and National Meteorology (ANAM), Chad
- Pourya Salehi, Head of Urban Research, Innovation, and Development Team, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
- Marcelo Freire, Chief Green Officer, YvY Capital, Brazil
- Catherine Atkin, Climate Data Policy Initiative Co-chair, CodeX, The Stanford Center for Legal Informatics

Session 4

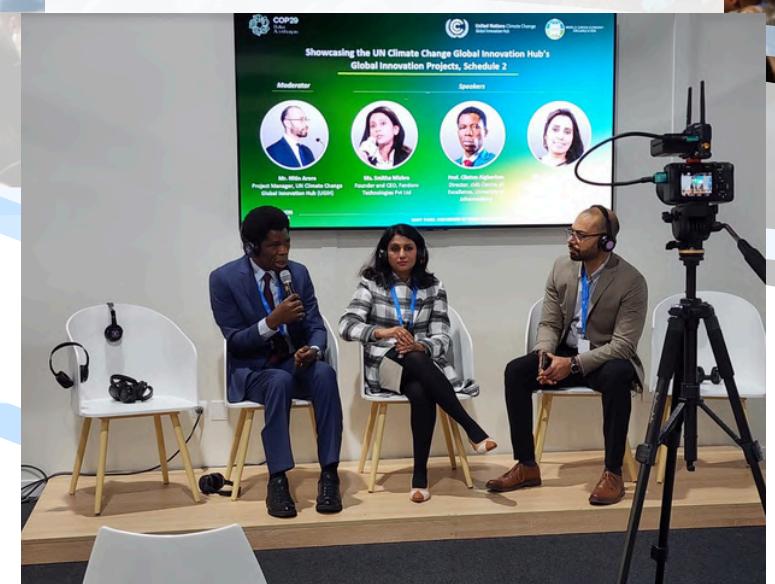
Building Smart and Wise Cities: Green Digital Infrastructure for the Net-Zero Transition

Session Description:

The session explored how digitalization is reshaping cities worldwide by optimizing energy use, enhancing resource efficiency, and driving sustainability. Digital technologies, such as digital twins, AI, and advanced data systems, are being explored to improve urban planning, early warning systems, and first-response solutions. The participants also highlighted the importance of fostering smart cities by leveraging technology to achieve climate resilience, better food distribution systems, and transparency in supply chains. The discussion underscored the need for collaboration across sectors, localized implementation of tech solutions, and a focus on measurable outcomes.

Panelists:

- Emmanuel Jiwoh Abdulai, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Sierra Leone
- Maurício Alcântara, Director and Co-Founder, Instituto Regenera
- Nina Kolybashkina, Senior Social Development Specialist, Climate Investment Funds
- Arvea Marieni, European Climate Pact Ambassador, Director of Ecological Transitions, BEAM CUBE
- Giorgia Rambelli, Director, Urban Transition Mission, Global Covenant of Mayors



10 Day Ten

Session 5

Accelerating Urban Transformation

Session Description:

This session centered on how systemic innovation approaches coupled with systems thinking can help accelerate the identification, development, and upscaled deployment of transformative climate and sustainability solutions. The sessions noted that successful urban strategies require a clear vision, expertise, and the alignment of government initiatives with the needs of the community, particularly in areas like decarbonization, digitalization, and infrastructure development. The session also highlighted the role that digitalization plays in reshaping urban planning, offering transformative solutions like data-driven decision-making, emission tracking, and leveraging digital public infrastructure to create smarter, more sustainable cities. The panelists agreed that it is crucial to reinvent industries, economies, and societal norms to meet future demands. By adopting creative, forward-looking approaches, cities can act as hubs of transformation, driving the sustainability agenda through innovative solutions tailored to their unique contexts.

Panelists:

- Massamba Thioye, Project Executive, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub
- Freedom-Kai Phillips, Director, Deloitte Center for Sustainable Progress (confirmed)
- Eva Kaskaskia, Chief Executive Office, Vanguard Ventures
- Catherine Atkin, Climate Data Policy Initiative Co-chair, CodeX, The Stanford Center for Legal Informatics
- Hania Othman, Director, Sustainable Impact Europe/Africa, HBAR



Session 6

The Sustainable Transition Is Urban: How Cities Are Making a Net-Zero, Resilient, People-Centred Future Happen

Session Description:

In line with the objectives of the UNFCCC Global Innovation Hub (UGIH), this session focused on a multi-faceted approach to accelerating city climate action through knowledge innovation. The session served as a platform to present the key outcomes of the 2024 Innovate4Cities conference (I4C24), particularly the updates to the Global Research and Action Agenda (GRAA) for cities and climate action. These outcomes will guide discussions on the latest research, policy, and emerging solutions aimed at tackling urban climate challenges. The session also underscored the need for integrated, cross-sectoral approaches and political will to achieve urban climate targets.

Panelists:

- Giorgia Rambelli, Director, Urban Transitions Mission
- Andy Deacon, Co-managing Director, GCoM
- Siir Kilkka, Vice-chair, IPCC WG III
- Manuel de Araujo, Mayor, City of Qaelimane
- Sayyara Musayeva, Deputy Mayor, City of Sheki
- Birgit Ahlers, Global Lead Geo Sustainability, Google
- Taila Sherrard, Regional Director, Strategic Sales and Marketing, MEI Fugro



11 Day Eleven

Session 1

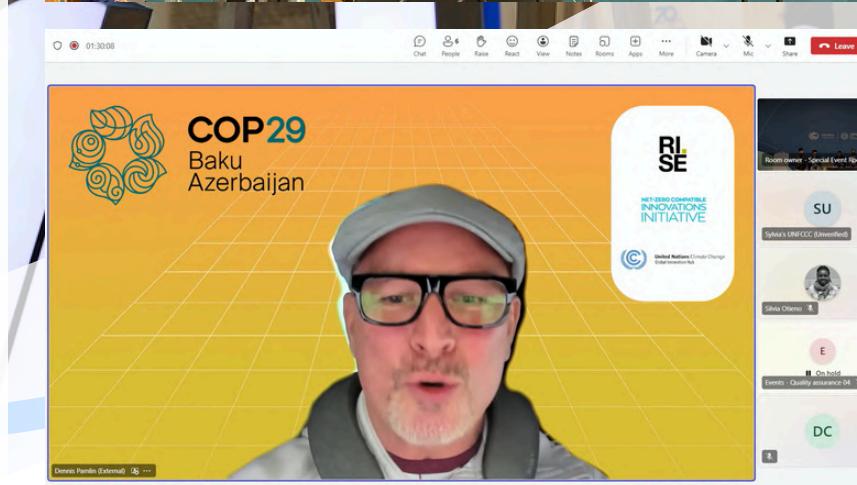
From Baku to Belém: Pioneering Cities of the Expanded Climate and Innovation Agenda

Session Description:

Building on discussions at COP28, this session spotlighted the evolution of systemic innovation and the central role of cities in driving this change. With a focus on innovation that regenerates ecosystems, respects planetary boundaries, and meets core human needs, the speakers shared insights into how urban systems can integrate human-centered design and regenerative principles. The discussions also emphasized systemic approaches, where human needs and environmental regeneration guide every step, highlighting the important role of attendees in this shift to proactive, collaborative agendas. The session also called for increased collaboration and innovative financing models to export solutions globally, with a focus on inclusivity and sustainable development.

Panelists:

- Huang Shi-Hong, Deputy Director of the Environmental Protection Bureau, Kaohsiung City
- Massamba Thioye, Project Executive, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub
- Kobie Brand, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI Regional Director of ICLEI Africa
- Dennis Pamlin, Executive Director of Mission Innovation's NCI
- Marcelo Donnini Freie, Founding Partner and Chief Green Officer, YvY Capital
- Pourya Salehi, Head of Urban Research, Innovation and Development, ICLEI
- Andrea Ramirez-Agudelo, Senior Expert and Associate Officer, UNU-EHS



Systemic Innovation Workshop

The UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub (UGIH) successfully conducted its Eleventh Systemic at the sidelines of COP 29 at the Innovation Workshop Innovation and Digital Innovation Agency, AIM (Ataturk Avenue 93) Baku, Azerbaijan on the 13th of November 2024.

The Systemic Innovation Workshops are part of a wider Systemic Innovation Framework that aims to accelerate the identification, development, and effective deployment of innovative technologies, policies, financial instruments, and business models, as well as cooperative approaches and products from culture and creative industries. This framework supports transformative climate and sustainability innovations to address the needs of the many people and the planet.

Since its launch, UGIH has successfully organized eleven workshops in the following cities:

- Bonn, Germany (June 2023 and June 2024)
- New York, USA (September 2023 and 2024)
- Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (October 2023)
- Dubai, UAE (December 2023)
- Bangalore, India (May 2024)
- Johannesburg, South Africa (July 2024)
- Shenzhen, China (September 2024)
- Brasilia, Brazil (September 2024)
- Baku, Azerbaijan (November 2024)

The workshop saw a diverse mix of 65 participants, with 95% attending in person and the remaining attending virtually. The participants included cities, UN organizations, incubators and accelerators tech companies, foundations, VC firms, research centers, start-ups, and companies from the culture and creative industries.



Massamba Thiyo, Project Executive of UGIH, delivered the opening remarks, and gave a comprehensive overview of UGIH, highlighting its vision, mission, core values, and operational framework. Keynote speeches were delivered by Inara Valiyeva (Chairperson, Innovation and Digital Development Agency) and Tugra Musayeva (Director of Innovations, Pasha Holding LLC).

The workshop also featured city-focused a panel discussion, plenary sessions as well as breakout groups. The panel discussion sought to understand cities' needs and challenges in realizing their net zero targets and how UGIH can better support them. The panelists included: Anita Schneider (Mayor of Gießen County, Germany); Innocent Bakulungelo Ssekiziyivu (Mayor, Mubende Town, Uganda); Yahweh Samuel (Council member, the political and technical committee of Rakai, Uganda), and Giorgia Rmabelli (Director, Urban Transition Mission)

The workshop highlighted the role of cities in driving innovation, with examples from Georgia and Uganda. Challenges discussed included funding, technology adoption, and mindset change. Participants emphasized the need for continuous interaction, public-private collaboration, and leveraging existing knowledge to enhance climate action. The session concluded with brainstorming on innovative projects to address these challenges. Amongst other topics, the breakout groups focused on gaps that continue to hinder the effective implementation of innovative technologies., the role that cultural and experimental approaches can play in driving the upscaled deployment of such technologies, and the need for collaboration and holistic approaches to innovation.

UGIH Participation in Other Sessions

Building National Climate Infrastructure: National GHG Inventory System's Role in Advancing National Priorities and Aligning with Global Efforts

Session Description:

Hosted at the Oman Pavilion, this session introduced the ongoing project of the Digitized GHG National Inventory System and Dashboard, designed to streamline GHG data collection, categorization, verification, and reporting. The session explored the need for such climate infrastructure to accelerate climate-related initiatives and to increase reporting transparency. Moreover, the discussion touched on the importance of such systems for international reporting of national mitigation and adaptation initiatives and their contribution to global climate efforts.

The Digital Climate Library: Art, AI, and the Climate Narrative – Bridging Digital Access and Global Action

Session Description:

This panel explored the intersection of arts, culture, and technology in preserving the stories of climate change, both past and future, through the UNFCCC Digital Climate Library. By engaging those from the world of the arts, technology, and global policy, this session demonstrated how cultural storytelling, powered by AI and other digital tools, can create immersive and accessible experiences to inspire climate action. The discussion focused on how the Digital Climate Library serves as both a data hub and a living archive, where stories from the past and speculative futures can be potentially told through various mediums—including visual arts, film, and AI-generated narratives. The key takeaway is that climate data can be democratized and made more accessible by merging arts and tech.

Beyond Borders and Politics: Strengthening Our Relational Fabric for Real Climate Solutions

Session Description:

Organized by Brahma Kumaris, this event brought together experts from various backgrounds to explore value-driven perspectives on the present state of our planet. Despite having everything we need to change the direction of the climate crisis; transformation is not happening with the impact it should. The panelists noted that for real solutions to create a better future, universal values, such as trust and compassion expressed in our relationships, need to be the starting point from which we work. The intention to benefit all human and non-human forms of life equally requires strengthening our relational fabric.

Skills for Transition

Session Description:

Organized by AE4RIA and SDSN Global Climate Hub, this session examined the urgent need for green and digital skills as part of the EU's vision for the Twin Transition—a path toward both digital and climate-neutral economies by 2050. The AE4RIA HUAWEI White Paper: Twin Skills for the Twin Transition underscores these needs, detailing how Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) systems and universities can bridge the skills gap by integrating green and digital competencies into educational programs. The session discussed the European Skills and Competences (ESCO) classification model, which gauges the "greenness" and digital adaptation of occupations, revealing the rise in demand for roles that combine both skill sets. The panelists noted that aligning these skill-building efforts with EU sustainability policies and labor market demands is critical to achieving climate neutrality goals.

Bilateral Meetings

Name	Title/Organization	Meeting Focus
Ms. Kirsten Dunlop	CEO, Climate KIC	Collaboration between the UGIH and Climate KIC on the city challenge.
Ms. Marianne Johansen	Head of Section for Nature and Climate at Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation	Collaboration opportunities including harmonization of standards.
Ms. Anita Schneider	Mayor of Giessen County	Collaboration between UGIH and Giessen County including the organization of a Systemic Innovation Workshop
Mr. Lee, Kang deok	Mayor of Pohang City	Collaboration to organize a Systemic Innovation Workshop in South Korea
Mr. Nan Feng	General Partner of Vanke	Collaboration on city challenge and organization of a Systemic Innovation Workshop in Shenzhen with a visit to Vanke's Net-Zero Campus.
Ms. Jennifer Steinmann	Global Sustainability & Climate Practice Leader, Deloitte	Presentation of the city challenge. Exploration of options for collaboration on this important initiative. Agreement to follow up with a workshop.
Ms. Emilce Cude	Secretary of the pontifical Commission for Latin America	Collaboration in the road to Belem. Organization of a "two or three days" event fully dedicated to Faith and Sustainability

Name	Title/Organization	Meeting Focus
Mr. Mike Hayes	Climate Change and Decarbonization Leader, Global Head of Renewable Energy, KPMG Ireland	Collaboration KPMG and UGIH
Her Highness, Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan	President/CEO of UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators	Presentation of the city challenge and discussion around collaboration between UGIH and UICCA
Mr. Wenxin Li	Global Environment Facility	Introduction to city challenge, and exploration of options for collaboration with GEF and IFC
Mr. Kadidja Ndiaye	SAPCO Senegal: Company of Development and Promotion of the Coasts and Tourist Zones of Senegal	Collaboration UGIH and SAPCO on green transportation and green building
Mr. Youyi Zhang	Managing Director China Top Business Alliance	Cooperation with Chinese cities around the Systemic Innovation Workshop and the City Challenge
Vice Minister Zhao Yingmin	Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China	UGIH engaging with cities for the deployment of climate and sustainability innovation
Minister Liu Zhenmin	Special Envoy for Climate Change People's Republic of China	Opportunities for Collaboration
Inara Valiyeva	Chairperson, Innovation and Digital Development Agency	Collaboration on upscaling the deployment of digital innovation including for Africa

Photo Gallery

