UN Climate Change Conference - COP 30 - Belém, Brazil

Showcase of Highlighted Results & Solutions

Trade and Investment for Transformation in Developing Countries: Decarbonization, Economic Diversification and Sustainable Value Chains

Concept Note

DATE: Saturday, 15 November 2025
TIME: 12:30 to 13:30 hrs
ROOM: Axis 5 Thematic Room

Organized by COP29 Azerbaijan Presidency, UNCTAD, UNDP and WTO Secretariat

Event Description:

Trade can drive decarbonization and inclusive growth by supporting diversification into low-emissions sectors and sustainable value chains. The event explores policy tools, cooperation, and strategies to mobilize private capital for sustainable infrastructure and green value chains.

Headline:

The session will explore how trade, investment, and partnerships can drive NDCs and decarbonization, and support sustainable development.

List of speakers (tentative):

Ms Rebecca Grynspan, Secretary-General, UN Trade and Development, UNCTAD/Ms. Luz Maria de la Mora, Director, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD
Mr. Elchin Allahverdiyev, Director of the Climate Diplomacy Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
Mr Marcos Neto, Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP's Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support
H.E. Mr. Paíno Henríquez, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Dominican Republic (tbc)
Mr Jean-Marie Paugam, Deputy Director-General, World Trade Organization
Ms Jennifer Baumwoll, Climate Promise Global Coordinator, UNDP

Target audience:

Policymakers and other stakeholders focused on creating synergies between climate goals and economic diversification and low-carbon transformation.

Organisers:

COP29 Presidency, Azerbaijan
UNCTAD and UNDP, as part of their contribution to the Baku Initiative for Climate Finance, Investment and Trade (BICFIT) Dialogue
WTO Secretariat

Illustrative key results by participating agencies:

[Please list the key results achieved by the initiatives to be showcased at the event]

- [UNCTAD support to climate, trade and development alignment] Elaboration of a set of Guides for policymakers to better use trade as a means of implementation of NDCs.
    - Piloted the Guide in two countries
    - Development of a training programme on trade and climate change nexus and the inclusion of trade-related measures in national climate plans.
    - Stakeholder consultations and analytical work on trade and climate change
- [UNCTAD support to climate and investment alignment] Developed the investment policy guide, "Investment policies to advance national climate plans: Guide for policymakers" - will be piloted in selected member states
    - Stakeholder consultations in major global fora
    - Developing a technical policy report on partnerships for investment in sustainable infrastructure, "International investment in sustainable infrastructure: The role of public-private partnerships" which is to be launched before COP30
    - Developed the "Climate Cooperation Initiative (CCI)" which encompasses two complementary workstreams: the Global Carbon Market Network (GCMN) and the Investment Promotion and Facilitation Services. Both components are complementary and contribute to a shared objective: supporting developing countries in mobilizing private capital for climate action and enhancing the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs).
    - Implementation of the technical assistance project focused on attracting finance and investment for energy transition and targets five countries: Ethiopia, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, and Tanzania
- [WTO Secretariat] Along with the World Bank and the World Economic Forum, the WTO Secretariat is implementing of the joint Action for Climate and Trade (ACT), an initiative to provide participating developing economies with tailored insights so that they can plan for the impacts of climate change on trade, leverage opportunities for climate action and trade growth, and define areas of collaboration with trade partners.
    - Two pilot economies have been supported in 2024, with two additional ongoing projects
- WTO Secretariat publications *Trade Policy Tools for Climate Action* and *Trade Policy Experiences Contributing to Climate Action* were presented at COPs 28 and 29, covering ten policy areas where governments have introduced measures to support the transition to a low-carbon economy, improve the flow of climate-friendly goods and services, decarbonize supply chains and build resilience to extreme weather events and climate change. The publications serve as reference for discussions on how trade can support decarbonization, economic diversification and the development of sustainable value chains.
- UNDP is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet.
- UNDP's Climate Promise is the UN system's largest portfolio of support on climate action, working with more than 140 countries and territories and directly benefiting 37 million people. This portfolio implements over US$2.3 billion in grant financing and draws on UNDP's expertise in adaptation, mitigation, carbon markets, climate and forests, and climate strategies and policy.

- UNDP is working with governments to bridge the finance gap. Through Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) and a suite of sustainable finance tools, countries are creating enabling environments that attract investment, align public and private finance with NDCs, and accelerate the shift toward low-carbon, climate-resilient growth.
- UNCTAD will continue its partnership to support developing countries in implementing their NDCs.

Prospective Agenda:

Timing (60 min)	**Segment**	**Speaker suggestions** *Stakeholder group/voice, Name, title, organisation, gender, geography*
5 min	***Welcome & Introduction***	
15 mins	***Opening Remarks***	***Ms* Rebecca Grynspan,** *Secretary-General, UN Trade and Development, UNCTAD* ***Mr Marcos Neto****, Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP's Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support*
5 min	***COP29 Perspective***	***Mr. Elchin Allahverdiyev,*** *Director of the Climate Diplomacy Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.*
20 mins	***High-level interventions***	***H.E. Mr. Paíno Henríquez,*** *Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Dominican Republic (tbc)* ***Mr Jean-Marie Paugam,*** *Deputy Director-General, World Trade Organization*
5 mins	***Interactive exchange*** *Q&A with audience*	
5 mins	***Closing Remarks***	***Ms. Jennifer Baumwoll****, Climate Promise Global Coordinator, UNDP*

Extended session description

In the context of the Action Agenda by the COP30 Presidency and High-Level Climate Champions Dan Ioschpe and Nigar Arpadarai, together with the Marrakesh have are aimed at bringing together different initiatives and accelerate the implementation of crucial climate solutions.

Trade, finance, and investment are central to achieving a low-carbon global transformation. Trade plays a key role in spreading clean technologies, strengthening supply chains and lowering the cost of climate action. Aligning trade and climate policies can deliver greater emissions reductions per dollar spent by facilitating access to renewable energy goods and services and repurposing environmentally harmful subsidies. Trade policies can also be leveraged to reduce distortions, promote pro-climate goods and services, and accelerate the deployment of green technologies through investment, technology transfer and capacity-building. These combined efforts demonstrate that coherent trade, finance and investment policies are essential to make climate goals achievable and to ensure that the transition supports inclusive and sustainable development.

Continuing these broader efforts to align finance, investment, trade and climate agendas, a high-level session is being organized to showcase how low-carbon and green value chains can support emissions reduction goals, foster climate-resilient growth and unlock trade and investment opportunities in developing countries. With the SDG investment gap exceeding $4 trillion annually - much of it linked to renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure - bridging this financing gap is essential to deliver on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), advancing structural transformation and building competitive low-carbon sectors.

The session will present initiatives that promote decarbonization, economic diversification and the development of sustainable value chains in developing countries. These initiatives are led or supported by international organizations — including UNCTAD and UNDP, as part of their contribution to the Baku Initiative on Climate Finance and Investment for Trade (BICFIT) Dialogue, launched in 2024 under the COP29 Presidency (Azerbaijan), as well as the World Trade Organization (WTO), International Trade Centre (ITC), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), and other partners. The discussion will also highlight how strategic partnerships — such as public–private partnerships (PPPs), multilateral development banks (MDBs) and development finance institutions (DFIs) — can mobilize private capital and accelerate progress toward sustainable development.

The session will conclude by highlighting concrete examples of how sustainable value chains can advance the implementation of NDC targets and support the transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient economies and SDGs. It will showcase pathways for greener production, economic diversification, and greater inclusion of SMEs in sustainable trade. Participants will also discuss practical mechanisms to scale up investment in sustainable sectors, strengthen technology transfer and capacity-building, and enhance international cooperation. In doing so, the session will illustrate how trade-led approaches can translate climate commitments into tangible development, turning trade into an enabler of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.