

**2022 Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards (JMB)
UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women, WFP
3 June 2022**

CONCEPT NOTE

-Final -

Identified topic and meeting format

As per the defined rotation, UNDP is the coordinating UN entity for the Joint Meeting of the Boards (JMB) in 2022.

Following the consultation among EB members based on an 'Options Paper', this concept note presents a revised topic for the 2022 JMB, which responds to the intergovernmental feedback transmitted through the various Executive Boards' Bureaux. The revised topic reflects the Executive Boards' common interest in Climate Action, while integrating the central transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to *Leave no one behind (LNOB)*.

2022 JMB topic: An integrated approach towards sustainable investment in People and Planet: Leaving no one behind (LNOB) as a principle for Climate Action to ensure a transformative path for the most vulnerable.

The world is in crisis and at a crossroads facing multifaceted challenges and crises. Countries continue to suffer from the health and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, while also navigating many other development challenges. The number of people living in poverty globally is expected to rise due to the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. By 2030, up to two-thirds of the world's extreme poor are expected to live in countries characterized by fragility, conflict, violence, and high levels of disaster risk. COVID-19 has worsened underlying vulnerabilities such as inequality both within and between countries. By exacerbating exclusion, especially due to the vaccine's divide, the COVID-19 pandemic has put millions on an uneven recovery track. The food and energy price hikes have added further challenges and are threatening the achievement of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB).

The path towards sustainable investment in People and the Planet is characterized by interconnected nature of multidimensional risks and challenges that require systemic solutions. Finding synergies between Climate Action policies and LNOB approaches such as social protection programming is particularly important in crisis affected contexts.

Since poverty and climate change are understood as multidimensional phenomena, promoting integrated policy approaches should become a key area of work and interest for UN entities in support of countries' needs and national priorities. It is essential to promote a LNOB approach that can link climate action - in particular, investments in agriculture and food systems, energy, and health - with social investment throughout the life course of people. The 2020 QCPR reinforces the interconnectedness of addressing climate change and peoples' needs, specifically of those most at risk, through improved policy and innovative approaches, partnerships, and financing opportunities.

The recent COP26 underscored the importance of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), climate financing, technology transfer, and other climate-related urgent actions. Also, the 2022 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) acknowledged that gender equality and empowerment of women and girls are a pivotal pillar of the climate change agenda and women are key players in achieving peaceful, just, and inclusive societies and promote economic and sustainable growth. While over 90 countries are making steady

progress with their NDCs commitments, the solution to climate change is not a standalone solution, but rather a holistic intervention that factors the challenges and future opportunities of all nations, especially developing countries, as well as the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, i.e. women, girls, children, youth, people with disabilities, indigenous populations, among other groups.

Against this backdrop of exclusions, exacerbations of inequalities and other vulnerabilities and stressors, coupled with the vision set forward in the COP26 and other recent intergovernmental forums, this topic provides an opportunity to explore how UN entities are supporting the global community, and developing countries in particular, to address the existing inequalities and other underlying vulnerabilities and adapting and mitigating climate change and its impacts from a leave no one behind (LNOB) approach. It also provides an opportunity to present current thinking around financing for the SDGs under the lens of longstanding UN Climate Change related principles such as Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, access to technology and international markets, the interlinkages of climate and resilience, the relationship between climate change and food security, sustainable infrastructure and other basic services cognizant of specific group's needs, and the role of women, children and youth, and other vulnerable groups, in climate change and disaster risk reduction, among others.

Approaching Climate Action from an LNOB perspective will allow an examination of the implications of sustainable transition on the lives of people and the need for a fair and equitable transition, based on the three pillars of sustainable development. Managed well, transitions to environmentally and socially sustainable economies can become a strong driver of job creation, job upgrading, social justice and poverty eradication. It is important to favor access to technology and international markets to developing countries, as well as more energy and resource efficient practices, avoiding pollution, managing natural resources sustainably and investing in adaptation to achieve socio-economic co-benefits and drive new investment and employment. Concrete examples will be presented on how social protection policies can ensure fair and equitable transition to sustainable economies, how UN entities are addressing the interrelation between climate change and a wide array of sustainable development challenges affecting all developing countries and the most vulnerable (women, youth, adolescent, elders, children, etc.), as well as efforts being undertaken to avoid further exacerbation of those challenges and ensure SDG acceleration in countries, especially those which are the most vulnerable.

While the JMB in 2022 may include considerations on the inter-connections between climate change and other related thematic areas, it is important to clarify that there is no intention to duplicate recent intergovernmental deliberations, for example, the CSW66 outcomes on the linkages between gender and climate, but rather expand on the interrelation of the dimensions of LNOB and climate change based on practical UN examples/country cases.

Meeting format

Date: Friday, 3 June 2022

Time: 10 am. to 1:00 pm.

Venue & modality: ECOSOC Chamber. The modality will be an in-person meeting with virtual connection available for those connecting remotely. In accordance with UN secretariat practice for hybrid meetings, interpretation services will be guaranteed for the first 2 hours with the last hour not benefiting from interpretation services.
