



### **Draft Meeting report n. 18**

#### **Eighteen Meeting of the IBC on Environment and Climate Change**

3 June 2025 (10:00-11:30, Geneva/Venice/CET)

The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of the IBC 2025 workplan in response to UNCT requests and exchange updates on the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP), encouraging a collegial and cooperative IBC members engagement for the second half of the year. The meeting was opened by Nicholas Bonvoisin (UNECE) and closed by IBC co-chair Arnold Kreilhuber, Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Europe.

In total, 12 IBC members were represented: FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN-Women, WMO.

During the first session Dyfan Rhys Jones (DCO/RCP Secretariat) shared key insights from RCP meetings held between March and May:

- Regional Forum for Sustainable Development on 1 April focused on UN80 initiative, Gender Equality Acceleration Plan (GEAP), the need to align the IBC workplan with geopolitical shifts, and SDGs challenges. Discussions underscored the importance of monitoring and evaluating the IBC work and increasing its efficiency agenda.
- ECA RCP meeting on 5 May addressed the need to strengthen RCP effectiveness, reset multilateralism and tackle the lack of comparative data on SDG progress within regions. The meeting highlighted three main requests: (1) actionable policy support, (2) roster of technical experts within IBCs, (3) cross-regional knowledge sharing and best practices.
- ECA RCP - RCs meeting on 16 May highlighted the need for timely and tailored advisory response, and scalable best practice examples from upper- and middle-income countries.

Additionally, it was highlighted the current lack of a dedicated IBC for human rights. The role of RCPs and their good practices were presented in the Secretary-General's report on "[Implementation of General Assembly resolution 79/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system](#)"

The second session, moderated by IBC co-chair Arnold Kreilhuber (UNEP), outlined the IBC 2025 workplan, including:

(1) Completed activities:

Sara Radnaaragcha (UNECE) presented the follow-up events on water issues, based on two sub-regional knowledge products on water management initiatives for Central Asia ([UN initiatives on water management in Central Asia and potential entry points](#)) and South



Caucasus ([UN initiatives on water management in the South Caucasus and potential entry points](#)):

- Informal dialogue on transboundary water management in Central Asia, organised by Regional DCO.
- Informal dialogue on transboundary water management in the South Caucasus, on 11 April 2025.
- The regional DCO is developing the policy and advocacy messages to the RCs on water issues.

Marika Palosaari (UNEP) highlighted key products on biodiversity following the webinar “[Incorporating global agendas at the national level – Biodiversity](#),” namely “[Key Advocacy Messages for Biodiversity Mainstreaming](#)” and “[Guidance for integrating biodiversity into CCA & UNSDCF](#)” disseminated at the webinar “[Regional workshop on Guidance and Finance for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into CCAs and UNSDCFs](#)” in March 2025.

(2) Ongoing activities:

Samuel Partey (UNESCO) introduced the ongoing IBC work:

- Webinar on [Financing Sustainable Development Initiative](#), on 12 June 2025.
- Survey to RG of UNCTs and webinar for [UN Country Teams on Multi-Hazard Early Warning System](#), (MHEWS) in September.

Sari Lappi (WMO) stressed the importance of the [survey](#) on MHEWS knowledge to better define the content of the webinar. Moreover, following the active participation on “[European State of the Climate 2024](#),” she encouraged the IBC members to propose a theme for 2025.

- Publication of a factsheet on air pollution and policy responses in the Western Balkans.
- Webinar on [Integrating gender equality into just transitions and climate change](#), jointly with IBC Gender Equality, in the last week of June 2025.

Cristina Martinez (ILO), on behalf of the UN Women colleagues, reported that Serbia may serve as case study for the webinar on “Integrating gender equality into just transitions and climate change.” UNCT Serbia has requested technical support for the just transition action plan.

(3) Future activities:

Nicholas Bonvoisin (UNECE) outlined the priorities for the second half of 2025, including:



- climate risk assessment and NDCs (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan);
- joint programming including gender and climate change;
- address individual requests by UNCTs;
- capacity assessment for continued delivery.

Sari Lappi (WMO) suggested liaising with WMO Asia office to contribute on climate risk assessment in the region.

Cristina Martinez (ILO) discussed the upcoming regional meeting at the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin, following up the working groups from the COP29 side event "[From Vision to Practice for a Just Transition for All: a cross-regional South-South Policy Dialogue on energy, sustainable finance, and enterprises for inclusive policy-making processes and enhancing NDC ambition](#)," in view of submission of NDCs and COP30. She proposed an active involvement of the IBC that will be discussed with the IBC core team.

Evetta Zenina (FAOSEC) suggested to consult the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) and FAO's Climate Risk Toolbox (CRTB) to address climate risk assessment requests.

Nicholas Bonvoisin (UNECE) clarified that the IBC had reviewed different requests to identify common themes. Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan highlighted issues on climate risk assessment and NDCs.

Maria Osbeck (UNICEF) announced the launch of revised [Children's Climate Risk Index \(2021\)](#) in July 2025, and the [Children's Climate Risk Index-Disaster Risk Model \(CCRI-DRM\) sub-national assessment in Tajikistan](#). She expressed gratitude to UNDP for collaborating on the "[Nationally Determined Contributions 3.0: Ensuring they deliver for children](#)" (NDC 3.0) and urged RCO to promote collaboration between UN agencies. Finally, UNICEF and UNDP will organise a webinar on child-sensitive NDC for Member States in the region, highlighting a potential area of collaboration with the IBC. UNICEF remains available to contribute on child-sensitive elements for the climate risk assessment requests.

Marika Palosaari (UNEP) reported that Azerbaijan submitted a clear request on joint programming through the RCP survey. Due to ongoing changes within the country, the RCO has advised postponing the response until June.

Nicholas Bonvoisin (UNECE) affirmed that the IBC has coordinated actively with UNCTs to ensure high quality responses to their requests, also agreeing that the focal points should suggest the appropriate experts within the agencies.

To conclude, IBC co-chair Arnold Kreilhuber (UNEP) highlighted the improvement in communication between IBC and RCOs on requests and invited IBC members to reach out and actively engage in responding to the UNCT requests.



**List of Annexes:**

Annex 1: Meeting agenda

Annex 2: Meeting presentation

Annex 3 IBC Env input to RCP ECA Work Plan 2025

Annex 4: UNCT requests 2025 status table

Annex 5: Practitioner's webinar on Financing Sustainable Development Initiatives concept note and agenda

Annex 6: Webinar for UN Country teams on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Syst draft concept note