

# HARNESSING CLIMATE & SDGs SYNERGIES:

## RAISE AMBITION IN THE ERA OF PARIS+5 AND PANDEMIC RECOVERY

CERTIFICATE COURSE SERIES 2021



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS**



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change



**unitar**

United Nations Institute for Training and Research



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



**CLIMATE AND SDG  
SYNERGIES**



# COURSE CONTEXT - BACKGROUND

## I THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES: POVERTY AND INEQUALITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND THE PANDEMIC

The world community faces multiple crises at the same time.

First, there is continued poverty in many of the developing countries.

Secondly, recent reports on continued growth in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are alarming scientists and development policy makers. Without more ambitious climate action, the world community may not be able to reach the main goals of the Paris Agreement on keeping climate change and global temperature increases in check.

And thirdly, the global COVID-19 public health crisis is worsening in many countries, causing terrible loss of life, human suffering, and economic and social stress.

## II THE UNIVERSALLY AGREED GLOBAL VISION: AGENDA 2030 AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Since 2015, the world community has had a common vision for sustainable development. At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit held in 2015, world leaders adopted Agenda 2030, including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 196 State Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, with the goal of “holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above preindustrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C”, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.

Agenda 2030 includes Sustainable Development Goal 13, which calls for “urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”. Article 2 of the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, in turn, aims for collaborative climate action “within the framework of sustainable development and poverty eradication”.

## III URGENT NEED TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF AMBITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Measurements suggest that 2020 was the second hottest year on record, and that the seven hottest years ever recorded were all between 2014 and 2020.

Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, some 190 State Parties to the Convention have formulated and communicated their first Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Although there has since been some significant momentum and engagement, the current level of commitments and contributions is still seen as greatly insufficient.

# COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Educate the public on the positive relations between pursuing climate goals and implementing SDGs.
- Introduce new sustainable business opportunities and possibilities for stakeholders by making the case for synergies.
- Introduce the tools used to identify and harness climate & SDG interlinkages, provide practical guidance on the industry level.
- Elaborate on the strategies to overcome implementation challenges. Eventually, the course aims to turn the pursuit of positive climate impact and the achievement of SDGs an industry and policy standards.

# COURSE STRUCTURE

## **Module 1 THE 'WHY' QUESTION: MAKING THE CASE FOR INTEGRATED CLIMATE AND SDGS SYNERGIES**

The broad ambitions of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement require collaboration and innovative incentive systems that facilitate cross-sectoral action and shared accountability across different ministries, agencies, levels of government and non-governmental stakeholders.

This module highlights a number of contributing factors to support policy makers in making the case for the importance of synergistic action, and in creating the conditions necessary to enable synergies across the global agendas.

- **Lesson 1:** Understanding systemic challenges in a hyperconnected world
- **Lesson 2:** Harnessing science to expand the knowledgebase on climate and SDGs interlinkages
- **Lesson 3:** Getting the whole of society onboard and leaving no one behind
- **Lesson 4:** Reading List
- **Lesson 5:** Additional Resources



# COURSE STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENT

The course is comprised of one introductory module and three main modules on the topics of climate and the SDGs. In the introductory module, students must indicate that they read through the syllabus and submit a short video/essay answering the listed questions.

## **Module 2 THE 'HOW' QUESTION: IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES AND TRADEOFFS TO MAXIMIZE SYNERGIES**

In order to maximize climate and SDG synergies, policy makers must be able to identify where the opportunities lie, and assess the trade-offs associated with various policy options in different context.

This module includes examples of tools for assessing synergies and co-benefits of integrated policies and actions. Insights from national planning processes are also presented, specifically those related to country experiences in aligning the SDGs and the NDCs.

- **Lesson 1:** Tools for assessing synergies and co-benefits of integrated policies and actions
- **Lesson 2:** Developing country efforts and experiences with integration of SDGs and climate action
- **Lesson 3:** Reading Materials
- **Lesson 4:** Additional Resources

## **Module 3 THE 'WHAT' QUESTION: WHAT BARRIERS NEED TO BE OVERCOME TO REALIZE SYNERGIES?**

This module provides insight on some of the main challenges of realizing climate and SDG synergies in practice, including issues on finance, capacity building, and access to data, technology, and innovation.

In order to overcome the challenges, the recognition of their interrelationship is important. To overcome barriers, high capacities are required for collecting, assessing and monitoring of data to enable decision-making and financial flows. Enhanced partnership and collaboration are needed to tackle challenges in finance, limited capacities and data.

- **Lesson 1:** Financing climate and SDGs synergies
- **Lesson 2:** Capacity development for integrated action
- **Lesson 3:** Data and technology
- **Lesson 4:** Domestic policy options for national and local climate finance in developing countries
- **Lesson 5:** Reading list





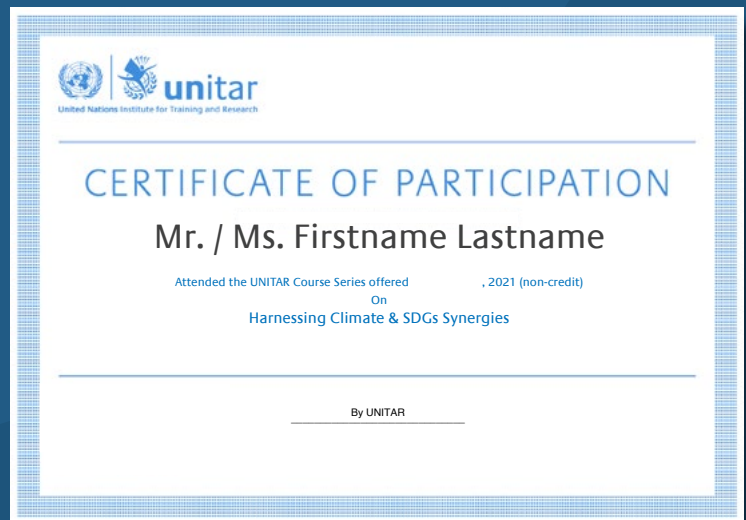
# GRADING SYSTEM

Students are required to go through all the modules, materials, and tests attached to each module. Students are also required to fill out a course survey (not related to study outcome) after they finish the course. To obtain the final certificate for this course series, students need to pass all three quizzes at the end of each module.

Introductory module will take up to 10% of the total grading, Module 1-3 will each take up to 30% of the total grading.

# CERTIFICATE

Participants will be granted a certificate of participation.





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