



Virtual Training Workshop Report

Mainstreaming Environment and Climate Change in United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (Webinar #1)

9 December 2021 (11:00-13:00, Geneva time) – Zoom Meeting
*The United Nations Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change
for Europe and Central Asia*

Executive Summary

In June 2021, the United Nations Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia published its [Guidance on Mainstreaming Environment and Climate Change in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks](#). Use of the guidance by RCOs and Country Team members is strongly encouraged by the IBC to identify and apply practical tools for mainstreaming key environment and climate change issues across five key entry points, including the Cooperation Framework's Roadmap and CCA, and within the design, implementation, and monitoring & evaluation stages.

To support RCOs and Country Teams in applying the mainstreaming guidance, a two-part virtual training workshop was created. The first session was convened on 9 December 2021 to provide an overview of entry points for mainstreaming environment and climate change issues in Cooperation Frameworks and to facilitate experience sharing within and among three subregions: Central Asia, Eastern Europe & the Caucasus, and South-east Europe & Turkey.

47 participants from across the three subregions attended Part 1 of the virtual training workshop. Polling during the event indicated that previous mainstreaming experience mostly related to the CCA and Cooperation Framework design entry points (71% and 50% of respondents, respectively), while experience in mainstreaming issues in the Cooperation Framework Roadmap and within implementation and monitoring & evaluation processes was limited (7%, 29% and 21%, respectively). These results were consistent with polling conducted at the conclusion of the session where respondents indicated their preference for additional mainstreaming training in the implementation and monitoring & evaluation stages of the Cooperation Framework (40% and 43% of respondents, respectively).

Experience sharing among RCOs and Country Team members from across the three subregions revealed several important insights about mainstreaming environment and climate change issues in Cooperation Frameworks.

- **Entry points:** Integrating environment and climate change at the mission-level of a UN Country Team can benefit mainstreaming efforts within the Cooperation Framework itself, as can building the environment and climate change knowledge and capacity within key stakeholder institutions involved in national development planning;

- Key issues: Climate change and disaster risk reduction were the two most frequently mainstreamed issues, based on participant responses during the training event;
- Challenges: The most common challenges experienced across the subregions related to mainstreaming environment and climate change issues in Cooperation Frameworks were related to limited capacity (i.e., for staff to engage multiple Results Groups), political constraints, and lack of guidance. (i.e., with the mainstreaming guidance not being mandatory to apply, as in the case of other cross-cutting issues, it is not always perceived as important by team members); and
- Enabling factors: Among the factors identified by participants which supported successful mainstreaming of environment and climate change in Cooperation Frameworks were national political commitment, solid consultative process, reference to national priorities, knowledge and facts on the benefits of addressing environmental issues and climate change, as well as a committed RCO and support by authorities.

The second part of the virtual mainstreaming training workshop was convened in January 2022, where individual sessions were tailored to the needs of each of the subregions to provide detailed guidance on the application of approaches and tools for mainstreaming environment and climate change in Cooperation Frameworks. A summary of Part II of the training workshop is provided under separate cover.

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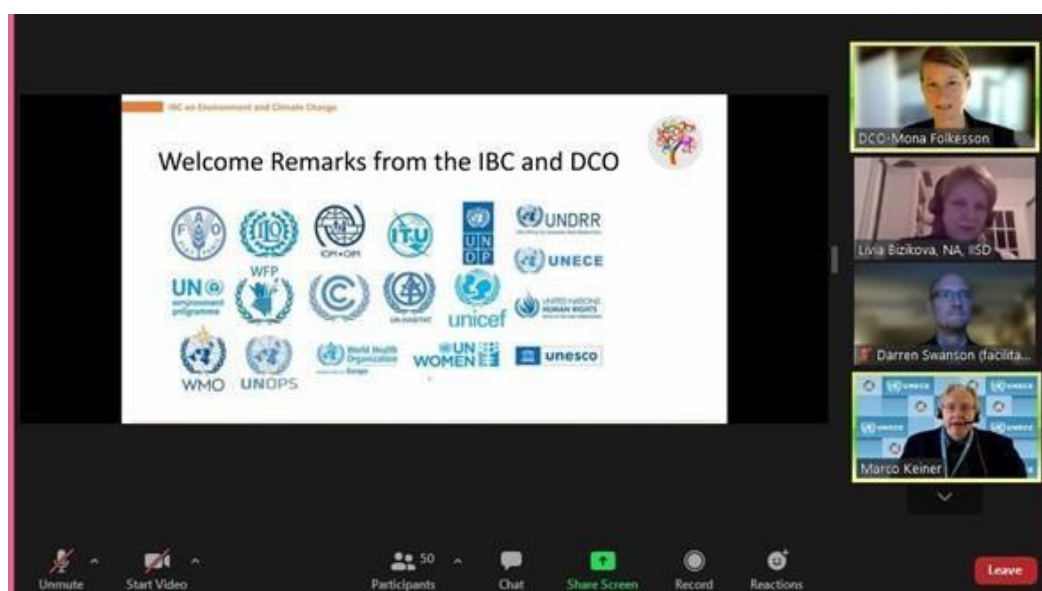
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Introduction

The United Nations Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia (IBC) has created a two-part virtual training workshop with the purpose of enhancing understanding of mainstreaming environment and climate change into United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) among UN Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs) and Country Teams (UNCTs). The training is based on IBC's [Guidance on Mainstreaming Environment and Climate Change in UNSDCFs](#) published in June 2021 and is focused on three subregions, including Central Asia, Eastern Europe & the Caucasus and South-Eastern Europe & Turkey.

This document presents the summary report of Part 1 of the training. This 2-hour session, held on 9 December 2021, convened representatives across all the subregions together to focus on [Mainstreaming Entry Points](#). Part 2, to be held in January 2022, will convene each subregion separately to focus on [Mainstreaming Approaches and Tools](#).

The training was attended by 47 participants, including members of the IBC and representatives from RCOs and UNCTs from across the three subregions. The participant list is attached as **Annex 1**.

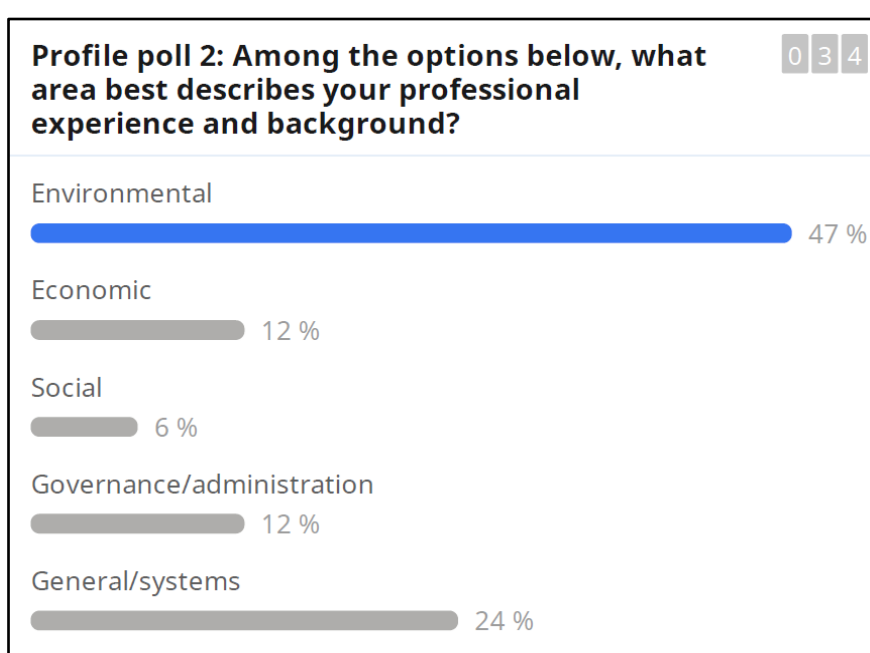


Mr. Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), described how the training workshop series responds to the request by Resident Coordinators in the Europe and Central Asia region for support in identifying and mainstreaming key environmental and climate change risks, challenges and opportunities in country level documents. **Ms. Mona Folkesson**, Senior Regional Coordination Officer for the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), highlighted the importance of mainstreaming environmental and climate change considerations into UNSDCFs and how the virtual training workshop series will help pave the way for enhancing the quality of Cooperation Frameworks and the Common Country Analysis. The Opening Statements are attached as **Annex 2**.

*Training facilitators: **Livia Bizikova**, Lead for Monitoring and Governance at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and **Darren Swanson**, Senior Associate with IISD.*

Polling to better understand the breadth and depth of experience among participants indicated the following:

- The majority of participants were relatively new to the UN country development cooperation process/framework. **68% had 5 years experience or less working with CCA.** and/or UNSDCF and a further 11% reported having between 5 to 10 years of experience.
- Participants came with varying subject matter knowledge, with nearly half selecting “**Environmental**” as the best description of their professional experience or background (see results below).
- In terms of mainstreaming experience, 43% of respondents indicated they had experience mainstreaming environment and climate change; **34% had no mainstreaming experience;** while the remaining 23% had experience with mainstreaming non-environmental issues.



Overview of Mainstreaming Entry Points

The Mainstreaming Guidance document outlines six main entry points for mainstreaming environment and climate change issues into Cooperation Frameworks, including: (1) the Roadmap; (2) the CCA; (3) design of the Cooperation Framework; (4) implementation of agency programmes and projects; and (5) monitoring and evaluation of Cooperation Frameworks, including in the preparation of the Common Country Analysis.

Among the key messages of the presentation were the following (presented by lead author, **Henrieta Martonakova**):

- The process as described in the Mainstreaming Guidance document is designed to be fully embedded into the new UN Cooperation Framework programming cycle. Ideally, mainstreaming should happen throughout the whole programming cycle.

- The entry points to mainstreaming environment and climate change into Cooperation Frameworks include the Country Roadmap, the Country Common Analysis, and the UNSDCF design, implementation and monitoring & evaluation.
- While every country is at a different place in the programming cycle, it's important for all countries to:
 - Foment an enabling environment for mainstreaming by having the right mechanisms and expertise in place for mainstreaming;
 - Confirm the key environment and climate change issues, risks, and opportunities in order to limit the negative impacts of development interventions, while enhancing positive benefits to support environmentally sustainable, low-emission, and resilient development;
 - Integrate environment and climate change outcomes, outputs, and indicators within the UNSDCF theory of change and results framework; and
 - Assess progress, examine and identify gaps and challenges for achieving environment and climate change goals and targets across all SDGs (including non-environmental SDGs)

Two questions were asked regarding the presentation:

1. **Question:** What stood out in the gap analysis conducted in the Mainstreaming guide?
Answer: While mainstreaming of environment and climate change issues is already quite high in the CCAs reviewed, gaps were mostly seen in the Cooperation Frameworks, where environment and climate change linkages are not necessarily reflected in the design of the results framework. Countries usually mainstream best in the outcomes related to economic growth and development, but there are not as many outcomes related to health, governance, education and other services. They may be missing indicators of integrated outcomes.

2. **Question:** To what extent have environment and climate change been integrated into the agencies' programs and projects?
Answer: UNDP has already introduced and applies environmental and social safeguards, including screening and impact management as an obligation in the design and implementation of projects. It was suggested that further information about other agencies could be obtained from the UN Environment Management Group, or by consulting with each of the countries.
Nino Antadze, with UNDP in Georgia, elaborated that in addition to environmental and social safeguards, UNDP's country program cycle coincides with the Cooperation Framework cycle, so the country programme document development is carried out in parallel with the Cooperation Framework and they share the same outcomes and outputs. This helps to ensure that environment and climate change are contemplated in the country program document. The same approach is then applied more deeply in specific initiatives/projects. It was noted that some other UN agencies also use this approach.

Experience Sharing Breakout Groups and Plenary Discussion

Participants were instructed to join one of three breakout rooms according to their subregion and asked to share examples of mainstreaming environment and climate change into Cooperation Frameworks by reflecting on five questions:

1. What was the mainstreaming entry point?

2. What was the environment or climate change issue of concern?
3. What approaches and tools were used?
4. What was the result?
5. What helped or hindered the mainstreaming effort?

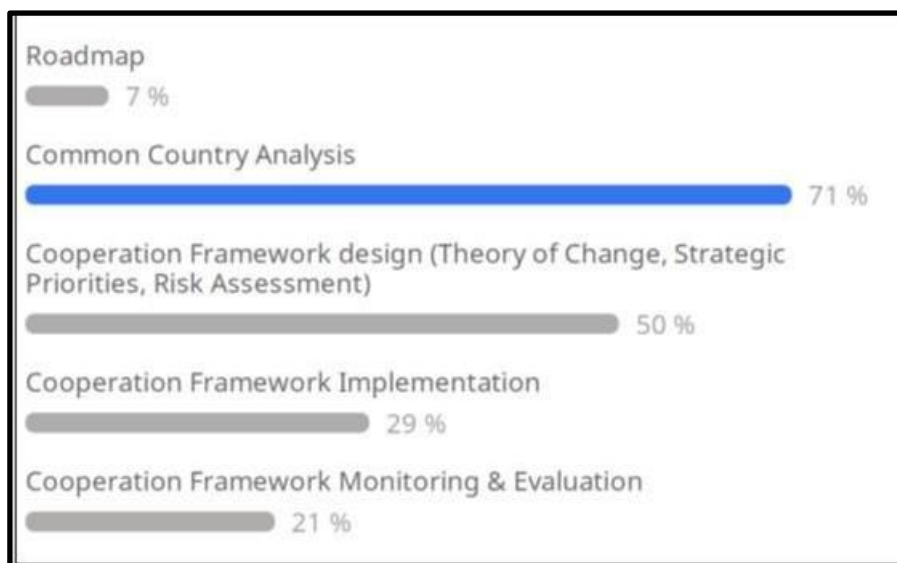
Each breakout room began with an invited presentation from each subregion to seed the discussion among participants. The invited speakers included:

- Central Asia: **Viktor Damjanovic**, Head of RCO (Kazakhstan). This breakout room was facilitated by Livia Bizikova (IISD).
- Eastern Europe & Caucasus: **Nino Antadze**, Outcome 5 Co-chair on Environmental Governance, Climate Action and Sustainable Management and Use of Natural Resources (Georgia) delivered the seed presentation. This breakout room was facilitated by Mainstreaming Guidance document lead author, Henrieta Martonakova; and
- South-Eastern Europe & Turkey: **Anita Kodzoman**, Outcome Group 3 Chairperson from North Macedonia, and **Lilian Kandikjan**, Outcome 3 RCO Focal Point on Healthy Environment, delivered the seed presentation. This room was facilitated by Darren Swanson (IISD).

A summary of the examples and discussion from each of the subregional breakout rooms is provided in **Annex 4**.

Synthesis of Entry points for Mainstreaming

Participants were asked to respond to a multiple choice poll to identify which mainstreaming entry points they have had experience with. The most common selected entry point was the **CCA, selected by 71% of respondents**, followed by the Cooperation Framework **design at 50%**. The least common was the Roadmap - only 7%. Monitoring & Evaluation and implementation were selected by 29% and 21% of respondents, respectively.



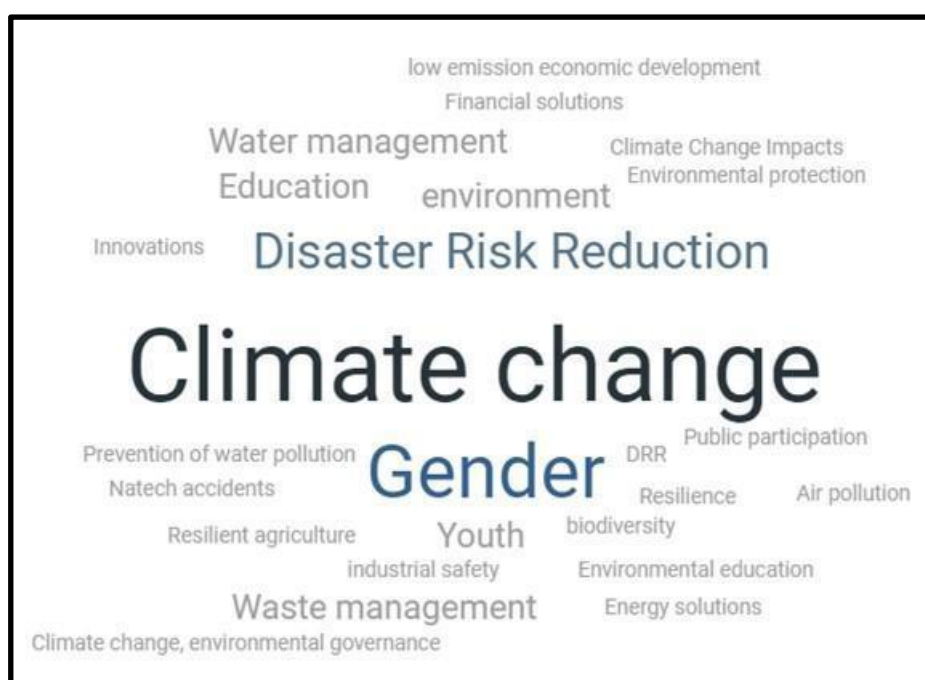
Viktor Damjanovic, Head of the RCO in Kazakhstan shared his thoughts on entry points for mainstreaming environment and climate change in Cooperation Frameworks. Mr. Damjanovic emphasized that it is important to be clear on what is meant by the term “entry points.” Based on the way it is defined in the Mainstreaming Guidance document, in Kazakhstan, the CCA and the

Cooperation Framework in their different stages were used as the entry points. Importantly, **the mission of the UNCT was also understood to be an entry point**, as it sets the tone for the overall trajectory of the UN work in the country. Additionally, the CCA analysis focused on two elements which later informed the development of the Cooperation Framework, namely: Analysis of Kazakhstan’s international commitments (Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, etc.) - which conventions were most challenging for the government to implement, and how the UNCT could help; and Analysis of the capacity of the government to implement these policies. The analysis revealed that the key institution overseeing the implementation of the SDG agenda in Kazakhstan had no environmental capacity. So, as a starting point, a consultant was hired, and the UNCT is now looking for long-term solutions to help this institution build the environmental aspect into its overall design and implementation of the country’s 2030 Agenda objectives. For more details on these and other examples of mainstreaming in Kazakhstan, refer to **Annex 4**.

Co-facilitator **Livia Bizikova** summarized that entry points indeed often come from ‘outside’ the country (i.e., international commitments) and these then serve as a starting point to begin the mainstreaming process as described in the guidelines, including via the CCA and other steps.

Synthesis of Issues Mainstreamed in the Subregions

A word cloud poll was used to capture the range of issues mainstreamed across the subregions. The results are illustrated below and clearly depict the terms most frequently identified by participants. Climate change emerged as the foremost issue mainstreamed, with Gender as the runner-up, followed by several environmental-related issues including Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), water and waste management, biodiversity, among several others.



For the **Central Asia breakout room**, climate change was indeed the predominant issue cited, as well as several issues ‘within’ climate change, e.g., emission risk reduction and mitigation, in addition to some issues related to adaptation.

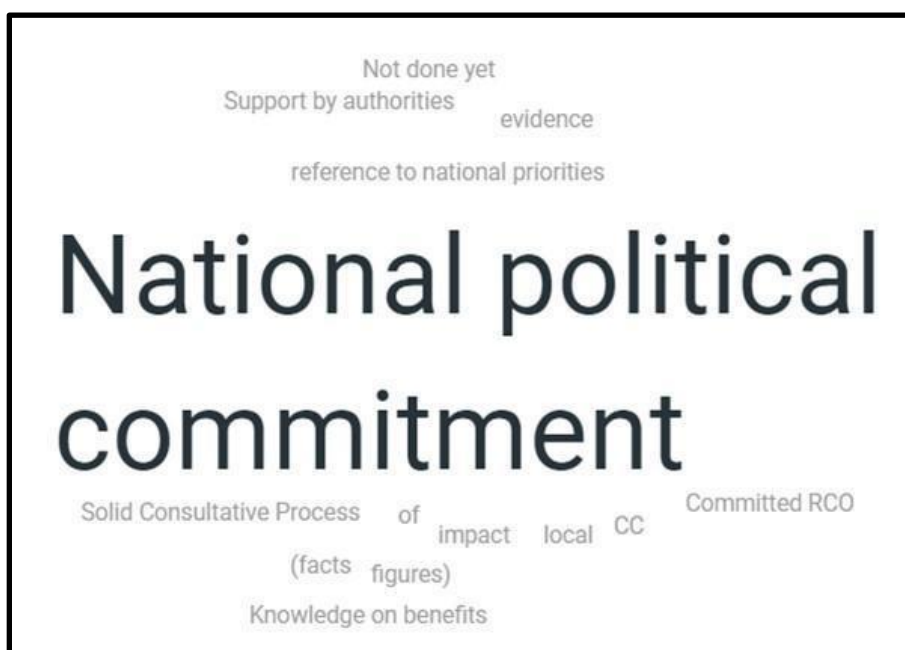
In the **Eastern Europe & Caucasus breakout room**, environment and climate change were noted as not being accounted for in a systematic way in sectors such as waste management, as shared by a

perceived as important - only a few team members were vying for its integration, and thus required a lot of effort for it to finally be included and mainstreamed into both the CCA and CF. Another challenge was the lack of existing capacity within the UNCT agencies (internal awareness) which is related to the lack of recognition of the importance of Env and CC.

It was asked if the guidance would remain only a recommendation to UNCTs, or will its incorporation be mandated into CCA and UNSDCF guidelines - as are many other cross-cutting issues (e.g., gender equality)? Mainstreaming Guide lead author, Henrieta Martonakova highlighted the importance of a UNCT's commitment to mainstreaming but suggested that a formal mandate should be addressed at a different level. She added that while capacity is important, willingness to be open to mainstreaming is also key, describing further that given the multitude of groups within the agencies (e.g., good governance, poverty, etc.), each tends to focus on their specific areas (i.e., work in silos).

Synthesis of Enabling Factors

A fourth poll, also a word cloud, asked participants "What factor helped enable their mainstreaming effort (i.e., to help make it succeed)?" The results, shown below, clearly depict the importance of national political commitment. Other enabling factors identified by participants included solid consultative process, reference to national priorities, knowledge of benefits, facts, a committed RCO, and support by authorities.



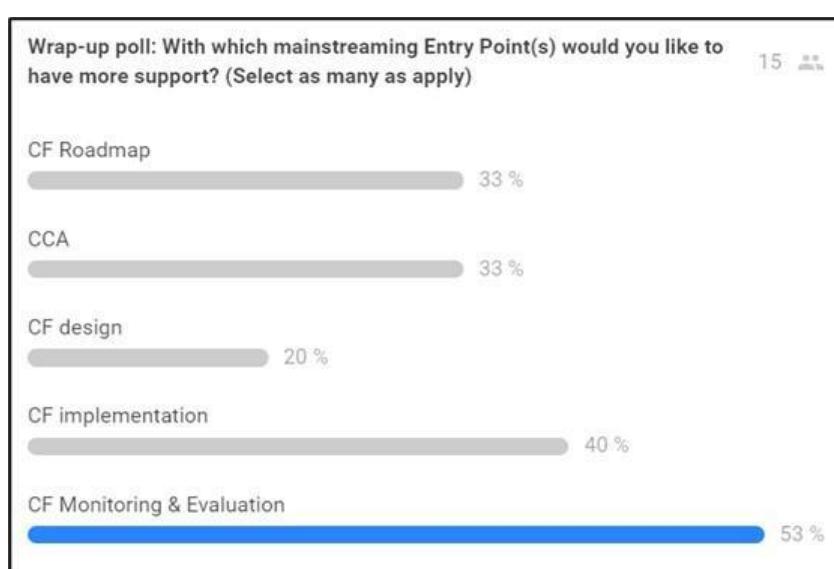
‘Enabling factors’ are the opposite side of the ‘challenges’ discussion. Several enabling factors were described by the North Macedonia RCO, including: Having a **diverse project team** and bringing different perspectives together; **Engaging at the citizen level** to validate the issues being discussed; **Not having to start from scratch** (having existing information in the CCA to draw upon); and **Having data and information about the costs of wrong action or no action.**

It was noted that the situation for the UNCT in North Macedonia was different than what was described previously by the UNCT in Georgia. For instance, there are **high levels of expertise** within the various agencies, with **long term engagement** and willingness to discuss environment and climate change and the ability to provide high quality data on how CC affects any area. Additionally,

the UNCT was able to hold good consultations with national stakeholders and conducted citizen polls; environment and climate change are on the forefront of themes of development issues that citizens, governments and CSOs consider important in North Macedonia. This helped to get quality, cross-cutting views on the effects of environment and climate change on long term development and helped the UNCT to build the CCA and Cooperation Framework with many interesting cross-cutting aspects.

Next Steps and Closing Remarks

Part 2 of the training (to take place in January) will convene each of the subregions separately to discuss Tools and Approaches at a more detailed and practical level. A final poll was launched, with results indicating that going forward, participants would like to have more support in all areas of the mainstreaming entry points, but especially in relation to Monitoring & Evaluation.



Bruno Pozzi, Director of the UNEP Europe Office, provided the training’s closing remarks, commenting on how interesting it was to see the environment and climate change dimension at play in the discussions. He acknowledged the event organizing members of the three IBC Co-Chairs, including:

UNECE	UNESCO	UNEP
- Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa - Nicholas Bonvoisin	- Francesca Bampa, - Jing Fang - Jonathan Baker	- Marianna Bolshakova - Marika Palosaari - Matthew Billot

Mr. Pozzi emphasized the importance of the training because it opens IBC’s toolbox for the agencies, enabling it to bring the power of the One UN approach to help mainstream dimensions of environment and climate change into the UNCTs’ work. He encouraged all participants to access the training material on the IBC website and disseminate it to their colleagues.

Participants were encouraged to reach out to IBC co chairs listed above if they had any questions at: regional.bureau-SC@unesco.org

Annexes

1: Participant list | 2: Opening Statements | 3: Workshop agenda | 4: Breakout room notes

Annex 1: Participant List

	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGANIZATION	POSITION	COUNTRY & Region
1	Almaz	Alper	DCO	Development Coordination Analyst	
2	Antadze	Nino	UNDP		Georgia/CA
3	Baker	David	UNDRR		
4	Baker	Jonathan	UNESCO	Regional Science Advisor, Head of Science	
5	Bampa	Francesca	UNESCO	Project officer, Science Unit	
6	Banerjee	Beas	IOM		Ukraine/EEC
7	Berghi	Natalia	WMO	Secretariat	
8	Bergman	Louise	DCO		
9	Billot	Matthew	UNEP	Senior Coordination Officer Europe office	
10	Bolshakova	Marianna	UNEP		
11	Bonvoisin	Nicholas	UNECE	Chief of the Operational Activities & Review Section, Environment Division	
12	Botherel	Armand			
13	Caglar	Ali	UNDP	Senior Technical Officer	Cyprus/SEET
14	Dacic	Milan			
15	Damjanovic	Victor	RCO	Head of the Resident Coordinator Office	Kazakhstan/CA
16	Erguven	Asli	UNDP	Project Assistant	Cyprus/SEET
17	Fang	Jing	UNESCO	Associate programme specialist, Science Unit	
18	Fernández-Flores	Víctor			EEC
19	Folkesson	Mona	DCO	Senior Regional Coordination Officer	
20	Henry Bergman	Louise	DCO		
21	Hewitt	Michael	IOM	MECC Focal Point	Turkey/SEET
22	Hwang	Jooweon	UNDP	Disaster Risk Reduction Officer	Kyrgyzstan/CA
23	Jachia	Lorenza	RCO		Serbia
24	Kamke	Claudia	UNECE	Environmental Affairs Officer	
25	Kandikjan	Lilian	RCO		North Macedonia/SEET
26	Kara	Zehra	UNIDO		
27	Keiner	Marco	UNECE	Director, Environment Division, UNECE	
28	Kodzoman	Anita	UNDP		North Macedonia/SEET
29	Kortoci	Daniela	UNOPS		
30	Lappi	Sari	WMO		SEET

31	Licanin	Dragan	UNDRR		SEET
32	Lorenza	Jachia	RCO	Senior Economist	Serbia/SEET
33	Makhmudova	Zara	WFP	Programme Policy Officer	Kyrgyzstan/CA
34	Marques	Sandrine	UNEP	Partnership Building and Resource Mobilization Coordinator	
35	Milan	Dacic	WMO		
36	Otte	Viktoria	UNEP	Europe Office	
37	Palosaari	Marika	UNEP	Programme Coordinator Europe Office	
38	Pozzi	Bruno	UNEP	Director, Europe Office	
39	Radnaaragchaa	Sarangoo	UNECE	Regional Advisor on Environment	
40	Syzdykbekova	Meruyert	UNWOMEN		Kazakhstan/CA
41	Vitiuc	Natalia	IOM		Moldova/EEC
42	Zehra	Kara	UNIDO	Eastern Europe	
43	Zholdubaeva	Lira	UNDP	Policy and Programme Analyst, Climate Change	Kyrgyzstan/CA
44	Bizikova	Livia	IISD	Lead – Monitoring and Governance	Canada
45	Swanson	Darren	IISD	Senior Associate	Canada
46	Paas	Leslie	IISD	Associate	Brazil
47	Martonakova	Henrieta	Consultant	Environmental Governance and Impact Assessment Specialist	Slovak Republic

Participants per breakout group:

▼ Central Asia	▼ Eastern Europe & Caucasus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BILLOT Matthew - Europe Office (CA/UNEP) ● Claudia Kamke (CA EEC SEE) (UNECE) ● Jing Fang UNESCO ● Jooweon Hwang UNDP ● KGZ Lira Zholdubaeva ● Livia Bizikova, NA, IISD ● Meruyert Syzdykbekova ● Sandrine Marques ● Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa_UNECE ● Viktor Damjanovic-CA-RCO-Kazakhstan ● Zara Makhmudova (UN WFP KG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Armand Botherel ● Beas Banerjee (IOM-UKRAINE) ● Daniela Kortoci (ECR) (UNOPS) ● David Baker, UNDRR ● Francesca Bampa (UNESCO Regional Bureau Europe) Venice ● Henrieta Martonakova, consultant ● Louise Henry Bergman (DCO) ● Marianna Bolshakova (UNEP) ● Natalia Vitiuc IOM Moldova ● Nicholas Bonvoisin, UNECE ● Nino Antadze, EEC (UNDP GEO) ● Victor Fernandez-Flores (EEC) ● WMO / Dacić Milan ● WMO Secretariat/Natalia Berghi

▼ **South-Eastern Europe & Turkey**

- ali caglar SEET (UNDP)
- Alper Almaz - R - DCO
- Anita Kodzoman, SEET, UNDP)
- Asli Erguven
- Bruno Pozzi
- Darren Swanson (facilitator)(IISD)
- Dragan Ličanin (SEET) (UNDRR)
- Hewitt, Michael (SEET) (IOM)
- Jonathan Baker (UNESCO SEET)
- Lilian Kandikjan (MK) (UN RCO)
- Lorenza Jachia (SEET/RCO) - Senior Economist - RCO Serbia
- Marika Palosaari, UNEP
- Sari Lappi (WMO, SEET)
- Viktoria Otte (Europe Office of UNEP)
- zehra kara, Eastern Europe, UNIDO

Annex 2: Opening Statements

Opening remarks from IBC representative **Marco Keiner** (Director, Environment Division, UNECE):

- Good morning and good afternoon colleagues depending on where you are!
- Let me extend a very warm welcome to all of you on behalf of the IBC and also IBC Co-chairs Ana Luiza and Bruno. Thank you very much for accepting our invitation and joining us for the training on Mainstreaming Environment and Climate Change in UNSDCFs.
- The guidance Mainstreaming Environment and Climate Change in UNSDCFs is the product of a fruitful collaboration between the 18 member agencies of the IBC and cooperation with DCO. The guidance was released in June this year and at the launch event we informed you about the upcoming training on how to use this guidance.
- The guidance responds to the request by RCs in the Europe and Central Asia region, who asked the IBC for support in identifying and mainstreaming key regional environmental and climate change risks, challenges and opportunities at the country level, notably in country level documents.
- So we are very pleased to offer you two training events that aim to increase understanding of the entry points and practical approaches and tools for mainstreaming environment and climate change into UNSDCFs.
- The training today will provide opportunities on knowledge sharing within and across the three subregions on mainstreaming environment and climate change in UNSDCF processes. I would like to thank colleagues from RCOs and Chairs of Results Group from Kazakhstan, Georgia and North Macedonia for joining us today and sharing their experiences with us.
- This virtual training will be followed by a series of three subregional level training events in January next year. I very much hope to see you at the one for your subregion.
- We will have a very interesting and interactive session today and I look forward to your active participation.
- In a moment our training facilitators from the International Institute for Sustainable Development in Canada will provide an overview of the virtual workshops and the objective of each of the training events. Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank our colleagues from IISD and our consultant Henrieta Martonakova for developing this training workshop.
- I also would like to thank DCO for cooperation and advice provided throughout the development of the guidance. With this I invite Mona Folkesson from DCO for her welcoming remarks.
- Thank you very much for your attention.

Opening remarks from **Mona Folkesson** (Senior Regional Coordination Officer, UN Development Coordination Office):

- Underline the importance of mainstreaming environmental and climate change considerations into planning work to better respond to the environmental and climate risks to achieve sustainable development. Also, refer to SG's common agenda and its priorities, one of which is to protect the planet. So this is a timely exercise.
- Express appreciation for the hard work that IBC on Env & CC and the consultant Henrieta Martonakova and IISD (International Institute for Sustainable Development), have put into the gap analysis of the extent to which CCAs and UNSDCF processes integrate the issues of environment and climate change in the region, followed by a guidance on how to mainstream environment and climate change into UNSDCF processes.
- Express further appreciation for the organisation of 4 training sessions dedicated to different sub-regions and note that these sessions will make UNCTs to better understand entry points and practical approaches and tools for mainstreaming environment and climate change into UNSDCF processes. Eventually, it will pave the way for enhancing the quality of CFs and CCAs.
- Encourage RCOs/UNCTs in five countries that are rolling out new UNSDCF processes to use the mainstreaming guidance as a pilot exercise.
- Underscore the fact that this is a successful outcome of the inter-agency collaboration at the regional level, contributing to the attainment of SDGs.
- Wish everyone a fruitful training.

Annex 3: Workshop Agenda

Taking into account ‘Zoom fatigue’ due to the significant amount of time UN staff have spent in online meetings since the outset of the pandemic, the training was designed to be highly **interactive and engaging**. Equal opportunity was offered for participants to learn about the mainstreaming guidance, as well as share their own experience with mainstreaming environment and climate change into UNSDF in their respective subregions.



To support and enhance participation and engagement, targeted polls and quiz questions were used throughout the training via slido.com, which enables participants to answer through their mobile phones and see the collective results in the Zoom application on their computer screens. Participants were also invited to use their microphones, videos and the Zoom chat during Q&A sessions, plenary discussions, and the “Solution sharing” session.

Timing	Agenda Item
0-20min	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Welcome Remarks</u>: IBC representative Mr. Marco Keiner (UNECE), and Ms. Mona Folkesson from the UN Development Coordination Office • <u>Webinar Overview</u>: Training co-facilitators Ms. Livia Bizikova and Mr. Darren Swanson (International Institute for Sustainable Development) • <u>Meet and Greet Warm-up and Polling</u>
20-55min	Overview of Entry Points for Mainstreaming Environment and Climate Change into Cooperation Frameworks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Presentation</u>: Overview of the Importance of Mainstreaming and Key Entry Points, Ms. Henrieta Martonakova – lead author, Mainstreaming Guidance Document • <u>Q&A</u> • <u>Knowledge Quiz</u> (to emphasize, not required for certification of participation)
55-110min	Solutions Sharing of Mainstreaming Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Plenary Instructions for Breakout Groups</u> • <u>Breakout Groups</u>: (1) Central Asia, (2) Eastern Europe & Caucasus, (3) South-Eastern Europe & Turkey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Seed Presentation for Central Asia</u>: Kazakhstan – Mr. Viktor Damjanovic, Head of RCO ○ <u>Seed Presentation for Eastern Europe & Caucasus</u>: Georgia – Ms. Nino Antadze (Outcome 5 Co-chair on Environmental Governance, Climate Action and Sustainable Management and Use of Natural Resources) ○ <u>Seed Presentation for South-Eastern Europe & Turkey</u>: North Macedonia – Ms. Lilian Kandikjan (RCO Outcome 3 Focal Point on Healthy Environment) and Ms. Anita Kodzoman (Outcome Group 3 Chairperson) ○ <u>Open Mic and Chat Space in Breakout Groups</u>: Open floor for participants who have relevant stories of successes and failures in mainstreaming. Each intervention followed by informal Q&A and discussion. • <u>Plenary Polling Questions and Discussion</u>
110-120min	Next Steps and Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Next Steps</u>: Overview of Webinar #2 specific to each region • <u>Closing remarks</u>: IBC representative Mr. Bruno Pozzi (UNEP)

In concluding the event, an evaluation form was circulated with a 25 % response rate. The results indicated that the training fully met the expectations of 64 % of participants and partially met the expectations of the remaining 36 %. Furthermore, 93 % of participants noted that the content was a useful and practical introduction to mainstreaming environment and climate change into UNSDCF processes (7 % noted that the content could be improved). Going forward, 77 % of participants stated that they would use the training in practice and 93% liked the interactive format of the event. Regarding the 2-hour duration of the introductory training, some participants commented that it could be one hour longer while others preferred a half-hour shorter; however, several noted that more time for discussion and exchange of experience would be helpful, including more practical examples.

Annex 4: Notes - Mainstreaming Experience Sharing Subregional Break-out Groups

Central Asia

Seed Presentation – Mainstreaming Experience in Kazakhstan

The experience of mainstreaming in Kazakhstan was presented together by **Viktor Damjanovic**, Head of RCO.

- **Issues of concern for mainstreaming:** Kazakhstan inherited significant environmental challenges from the Soviet past, such as the drastic contraction of the Aral Sea and industrial and nuclear waste. This legacy, coupled with the resource-dependence for economic growth, create a complex picture. Kazakhstan is the largest CO₂ emitter in Central Asia and the 14th largest in the world. Air pollution is particularly severe in larger urban areas, such as Almaty and Nur-Sultan; and air quality is becoming a serious health issue. Additionally, more than 75 % of Kazakhstan's territory is exposed to a range of natural hazards, and since the mid 1930s, the average annual air temperature in Kazakhstan has increased by an average of 0.26°C for each 10 years (the most vulnerable sectors to climate change will be agriculture and water management).
- **Entry points:** One entry point was the mission of our UN Country Team, defined, in part, “to help achieve a future in Kazakhstan with a healthy and educated population, green economy and sustainable agriculture, thriving businesses and guaranteed human rights for all through economic, social and political modernisation based on human rights and inclusive national dialogue, gender equality, empowerment of all people focused on leaving no one behind, and enhanced regional partnership.” A second entry point was the CCA, and in particular, the section on the environment, we identified two hooks, or entry points, to be elaborated in the UNSDCF document.

First, we paid special attention to Commitments under international norms and standards that Kazakhstan has signed up for. For Example, Kazakhstan has ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Under the Paris Agreement Kazakhstan pledged an unconditional 15% reduction and a conditional 25% reduction in GHG emissions by 31 December 2030 compared to the base year. Such a reduction requires an almost full phase-out of coal consumption in power generation by 2050 – which is quite ambitious for a country with an economy based on fossil fuels. We saw a space for the UNCT to work with the Government to discuss options and solutions.

Another entry point in the CCA was the capacity of the key institutions to implement necessary policies. For example, one of the central functions in the SDG architecture in Kazakhstan is assigned to the Economic Research Institute (ERI), which is mandated to oversee SDG implementation. We conducted an assessment that showed that Lack in environmental capacity, as The ERI has a dominant capacity in the economic field. To avoid a silo-based implementation of the SDGs, we looked for international experts that can support the ERI's Centre for Sustainable Development in generating a balanced integration of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

Furthermore, in our CCA, we had a designated chapter on Environment, but we were more interested in the interlinkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions of development. Kazakhstan's spectacular economic growth since independence depended largely on exploiting its fossil fuel wealth, which resulted in degradation of nature. Thus, we developed a matrix linking the main priorities (such as economic diversification), with sub-issues and corresponding SDGs (see below)

- **Approaches and tools:** Firstly, in our Theory of Change we provided an overall emphasis on environmental sustainability for economic development. We ensured that the Co-operation Framework links environment and climate change with gender in the Theories of Change for gender equality and women's empowerment. For example, we "theorized" how 'If women have equal access to and control of new sources of energy and economic resources and are resilient towards climate change and other shocks and global challenges, then women can fully realise their equal participation which contributes to inclusive economic growth in Kazakhstan.'

We devoted ONE OF THE THREE thematic areas in our UNSDCF to 'Planet and Prosperity' (i.e., to economy and environment). These thematic areas were divided in two outcomes – roughly speaking one on economy and one on environment. However, due to the interlinkages between the two areas, we made sure that the environment is well reflected in the economy outcome. Thus, two of the three outputs in the economy outcome refer to "sustainable" and "green" economy.

We also tried not only to look at the Environment and Economy theme area; we aimed to identify the opportunities in other two thematic areas to integrate environmental and climate aspects. In addition to the example of gender and environment integration, in our UNSDCF Thematic Area 1 on Human Development and Equal Participation, it places emphasis on education for sustainable development, particularly for children, and by empowering women, men, adolescents and youth with knowledge and life skills to make healthy and responsible choices in their lives and develop a set of values to promote sustainable development. Furthermore, we monitor the 'non-environmental' outcomes through environment and climate change related indicators. For example, one of our outcomes on Human Development includes the indicator: 'Number of teachers trained on education for sustainable development (ESD) including gender equality and human rights'.

Furthermore, in the CCA update, we paid special attention to the new EU mechanism that will hit Kazakhstan hard. Namely, in July 2021, the European Commission unveiled its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). Due to the CBAM, the country's oil sector may lose \$3-4 billion, and the metallurgical sector approximately \$350 million. For this reason, the CBAM seems to be an imperative of the Government's decarbonization efforts this year; and also, an opportunity for the UN to provide assistance.

- **Results:** The result is a work in progress – we will actually start soon, with reporting on the results. We have established a COP26 Group, which we plan to turn into an Environment/Climate Change Group. We will have to find how not to duplicate work with the Result Group 3. The Environment group will focus exclusively on environment. In the meantime, we are updating our CCA where we paid special attention to the Environment and Climate Change. Additionally, President Tokayev declared that Kazakhstan will achieve carbon neutrality by 2060 and officially presented the Doctrine for Carbon Neutrality of Kazakhstan by 2060 (the Doctrine) at a high-level event

in Nur-Sultan. The government, under the management of the Ministry of Economy, is now in the process of developing an implementation strategy and a financing framework for its realisation – we see this as an opportunity for the UN.

- **Enabling factors:** Three factors in particular helped to enable the mainstreaming efforts: the President's doctrine on carbon neutrality; the new EU mechanism introducing tax on import to 'dirty' products to EU; and the overall decarbonization opportunity.
- **Challenges:** Among some of the lessons learned from mainstreaming is that there is a lack of capacity in the government and across key institutions for the implementation of policies. Additionally, knowledge and information sharing on environmental matters between UNCTs and RCOs is important, while at the same time, agencies have their own specific mandates.

Additional Examples and Discussion

Kyrgyzstan: **Lira Zholdubaeva** with UNDP described that in Kyrgyzstan, some priority areas were identified for outcomes related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable energy solution, env protection governance and management, crisis prevention and disaster risk reduction. Presently, Kyrgyzstan is defining outcomes and outputs to finish the first draft in the context of UNSDCF, and then the milestones will be refined for the process. Other priority areas include DRR and climate. Also, several processes are taking place, including: finalization of the National Action Plan for NDCs, UNSDCF formulation, and development of the country partnership strategy. Among the challenges experienced for mainstreaming are: no clear vision on the implementation, lack of funding, lack of competency and capacity to submit proposals to institutions such as IDB, GCF, etc. Among the imperatives that can enable mainstreaming is to transform outcomes into meaningful and actionable activities.

UNDP: **Jooweon Hwang** with UNDP highlighted areas related to the UNSDCFs' outcome statement, crisis management and DRR, and mainstreaming DRR. One of the priorities is currently crisis prevention and DRR and how to better integrate DRR into UNSDCF (i.e., integrate DRR into climate change or having it independent?).

World Food Programme: **Zara Makhmudova** with WFP described the inclusion of climate change issues and addressing issues of DRR, as well as the challenges in mainstreaming issues in terms of turning high-level goals and priorities into specific national priorities and then into specific actions. Zara noted that we are better on "high-level" mainstreaming, but often these high-level good mainstreaming efforts did not translate well into actual actions or at least, no significant changes in the actions. Other challenges shared include: the integration of water management and issues related to agriculture - how to use this integration to improve food security and nutrition? And, the need to address requirements of agricultural production and supporting measures.

UNECE: **Claudia Kamke with the UNECE** elaborated on one of their initiatives related to integration of climate change and water issues into mining tailings ponds management. Assuring safe operation, in the terms of limiting potential spills as such spills, is important as this can lead to water pollution issues. There are working groups in three countries on this issue. Our mainstreaming efforts have also moved down to actual actions, instead of only focusing on policy and program-level mainstreaming. It was also noted that countries do tend to have quite ambitious promises and commitments; however, without a real plan/vision for implementation in place.

Eastern-Europe & the Caucasus

Seed Presentation – Mainstreaming Experience in Georgia

The experience of mainstreaming in Georgia was presented by **Nino Antadze**, the Outcome 5 Co-chair on Environmental Governance, Climate Action and Sustainable Management and Use of Natural Resources (Georgia). Ms. Antadze is also the Environment & Energy Team Leader for UNDP in Georgia.

- **Entry points:** Mainstreaming of environment and climate change issues in Georgia has occurred through both the CCA and the Cooperation Framework document, and more in the case of the latter. Issues are relatively well mainstreamed at the Theory of Change level, but not sufficiently reflected in the Results Framework, despite the fact that the demand from the national partners to reflect climate change and the environment is relatively high.
- **Challenges:** Among the challenges to mainstreaming is a lack of guidance for doing so. Mainstreaming ‘fatigue’ is another challenge, as environment and climate change are seen as an additional issue to mainstream beyond gender, disaster risk reduction, and human rights-based approach. Overcoming this fatigue is challenging in and of itself because there is no formal commitment of UNCTs to mainstream environment and climate change at the Cooperation Framework design level, compared to the gender issue, for instance. Environment and climate change are still largely invisible in logical framework results and indicators, despite many relevant projects being implemented. There is also a lack of support internally among the non-environmental UNCT members, non-environmental teams, even though national authorities are expecting environment and climate change to be addressed. This is compounded by a *lack of internal UNCT capacity in environment and climate change issues*, including in the non-environmental UNCT members and non-environmental teams, and also externally among national authorities.
- **Enabling factors:** Providing information and statistical data that reinforces the links between the environment and climate change and development to UNCT colleagues helped facilitate mainstreaming efforts.

For more information on these and other case examples from Georgia, refer to the Mainstreaming Guidance document. In particular, refer to Boxes 5.1, 5.5, 6.3. The CCA of Georgia provides good analysis, including quantitative, of the risks posed by climate change and environmental degradation on different development issues and sectors (i.e., losses due to natural hazards, climate change impacts on water resources, land degradation and agriculture, etc.). The Georgia CCA also links population health with the environment in its Chapter 5 on the social dimensions of sustainable development.

Additional Examples and Discussion

UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS): A representative from UNOPS in Albania observed that environment and climate change are yet not accounted for in a systematic way in sectors such as waste management.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO): Natalia Berghi with WMO elaborated that currently there is insufficient engagement of international and national meteorological institutions in the design of Cooperation Frameworks.

South-Eastern Europe & Turkey

Seed Presentation – Mainstreaming Experience in North Macedonia

The experience of mainstreaming in North Macedonia was presented together by **Anita Kodzoman**, Outcome Group 3 Chairperson, and **Lilian Kandikjan**, Outcome 3 Focal Point on Healthy Environment, delivered. Their experience is summarized as follows:

- **Entry points:** Common Country Analysis and Theory of Change
- **Issues mainstreamed:** For example, green jobs (and concerns related to lateral displacement) and resilience and smart agriculture.
- **Approaches and tools:** Multi-dimensional risk analysis was one of the tools used by the team to help mainstream environment and climate change.
- **Enabling factors:** Firstly, there existed a strong expertise among the Country Team in the area of environment and climate change, and this helped provide broad perspective to mainstream important issues. Second, citizen perspectives were also received through engagement, and this helped improve understanding of issues and amplify their importance. Thirdly, research and presentation on the costs of non-action/wrong action on environment and climate change issues proved useful for mainstreaming. And fourth, the team did not have to start from scratch in thinking about these issues as there was information already available, such as vulnerability analysis.
- **Challenges:** One of the core challenges for mainstreaming is limited capacity to address the wide array of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that a country has to address simultaneously...."it takes an enormous amount of time." One way to address this challenge is to convey that there are common goals among the MEAs and the UNSDCFs and therefore, these don't have to all be treated as parallel streams.

For more information on these and other case examples from North Macedonia, refer to the Mainstreaming Guidance document. In particular, refer to Boxes 5.3 and 5.4, illustrating the inclusion of environment and climate change assessments across 13 of the 17 SDGs in the CCA as well within its multidimensional risk assessment. Overall, North Macedonia is a robust example of identifying links between the environment, climate change and development sectors / issues. The CCA also refers to environment and climate change issues in assessing progress towards many non-environmental SDGs. Environment and climate change issues are well mainstreamed in the multi-dimensional risk analysis, the section on the commitments under international norms and standards (including a comprehensive list of the environmental treaties which North Macedonia acceded to), and the section on cross-boundary, regional and sub-regional perspectives.

Additional Examples and Discussion

Western Balkans: Other experiences from the Western Balkans were shared during the breakout group open mic session. **Lorenza Jachia** from the RCO in Serbia noted that aspects of reporting were an important entry point for mainstreaming environment and climate change issues. The government and UNCT had worked with statistical agencies and 14 new indicators were established related to environment and climate change. With regard to challenges experienced, there is currently some resistance to bringing sustainable development into school curriculum in Serbia, so any assistance and perspective from others in this regard was welcomed by others. The expertise of UNICEF in leading 'The World's Largest Lesson' programme was noted as one possible source of information.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO): Sari Lappi with the WMO noted that their organization is happy to assist UNCTs in the region with their efforts on mainstreaming environment and climate change issues.

International Organization for Migration (IOM): Michael Hewitt with IOM noted that there often exists a capacity challenge in the amount of work necessary to work across all the different results groups.