

Climate action and development policies can be mutually enhancing.

➔ Determined action to combat climate change and minimise its impacts is integral to the successful implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

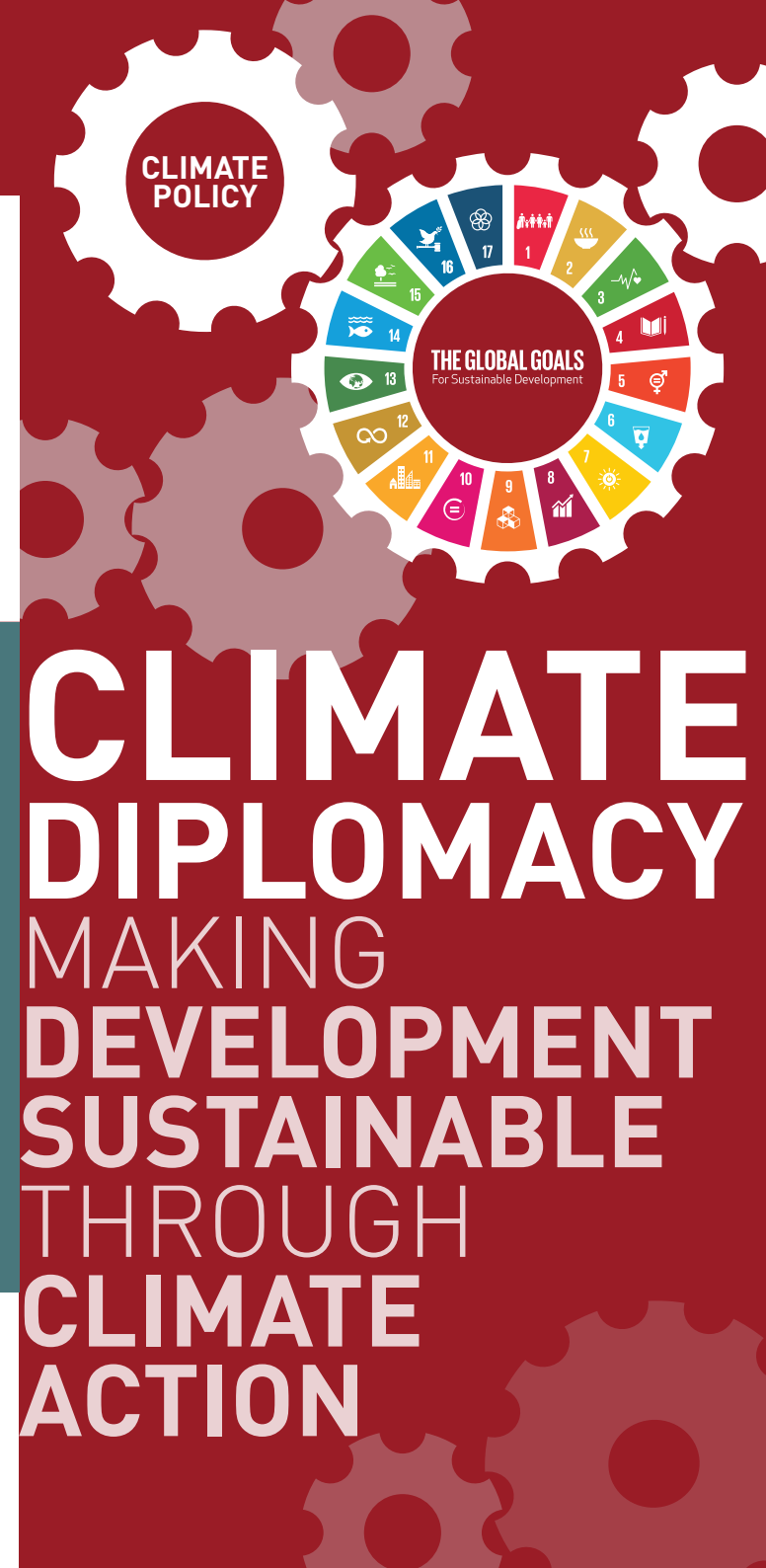
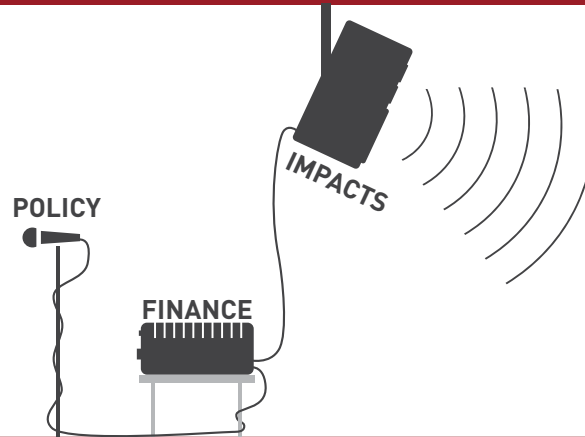
➔ For example: land restoration, ecosystem protection and climate-smart agriculture reduce emissions and simultaneously secure livelihoods, especially for small-scale producers (SDG2). In arid Niger, small-holder farmers restored more than 5 million hectares of semi-desert into productive open woodlands. As a result of increased tree density, crop yields increased by more than 100 kg per hectare, enough to feed an additional 2.5 million people a year.

Natural hazards and gradual environmental degradation lead to reversals in poverty reduction and destroy livelihoods. Inaction, as well as inadequate climate policies, undermines sustainable development.

➔ For example: climate change is likely to disrupt food security (SDG2) and water availability (SDG6). As women bear a disproportionate burden in regard to the provision of food and water, climate change can undermine gender equality (SDG5). Climate change may also exacerbate grievances and conflicts over scarce resources (SDG16).

CLIMATE DIPLOMACY CAN HELP INTEGRATE CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

SENDING COHERENT MESSAGES: CLIMATE ACTION IS VITAL FOR DEVELOPMENT



The Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are hallmark achievements of international cooperation. In order to implement them, both agendas need to be pursued in an integrated way.

Aligning humanitarian, development, trade and foreign policy efforts with the long-term goal of building resilience is essential to prevent conflicts today and tomorrow.

Diplomats can assist by positioning the interlinkages* between climate and development on various agendas and communicating the importance of coordination between different actors and sectors.

They can negotiate sustainable deals abroad, promoting integrated approaches and finding compromises that take climate change into account.

- ➔ Well-designed policies to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate impacts provide benefits to social and economic development.
- ➔ To achieve peace, climate risks need to be part of early warning and risk assessments. Building resilience to climate change is an integral part of crisis prevention and a priority for effective foreign policy.
- ➔ Development policies should not undermine delicate ecosystems and climate targets. Development projects need to anticipate long-term adverse climate impacts and seek to minimise them.
- ➔ Mobilising climate finance is necessary to achieve climate goals and can also contribute to multiple development goals.



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Sources: World Resource Institute, World Bank, UN Women, Overseas Development Institute.
*The Intended Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement (INDCs) have the potential to generate mutual benefits with at least 154 of 169 SDG targets (WRI 2016).

