

Harnessing Climate and SDG Synergy

Promoting Synergistic Approaches in Asia and
Pacific: Addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis

February 20, 2024

Work of the Expert Group

Composition : Independent group of 14 experts from diverse thematic and geographic backgrounds.

Objective : To prepare the first global report that builds on evidencebase and demonstrates win-win solutions of addressing climate and sustainable development challenges synergistically.

Learn more [here](#).



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Problems and Challenges that the Report Addresses

Increasing recognition that synergies can result in win-win situations, and that addressing climate and SDGs jointly rather than in isolation amplifies the impact of policies but evidence is dispersed, scattered and often not easily accessible – [Should a global platform that gathers this evidence be created?](#)

The absence of tools for a) identifying and enhancing synergies, and b) for policy makers to enable and promote synergies – [Would an analytical framework that is easy to use by policy makers be a good solution?](#)

How can finance be reformed to advance this agenda – [Can the current global debate on the need for reform of the global finance architecture make this a critical component of that debate?](#)

The adequacy or inadequacy of reporting mechanisms - if synergies are so essential for the success of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030 – [should reporting on them be made a pre-requisite?](#)

Existing Barriers Towards Integrated Solutions

Easier Knowledge Access

- Major disconnect between scientific evidence and applied policy action
- Insufficient knowledge of SDG and climate interactions
- Lack of accessible and applicable methodologies and tools that map the nature and magnitude of interactions
- Challenges in understanding and aligning climate actions across all SDGs to ensure synergies and impacts

Adequate Financial Mechanisms

- Limited national budgeting on addressing synergies
- Lack of enabling financial instruments
- Lack of clarity and evidence on the benefits and costs of co-benefits and trade-offs
- Lack of climate finance flowing to those countries facing highest risk and greatest adaptation needs

Improved Political Planning and Reporting

- Political cycles that cause changes in political priorities
- Lack of political motivation towards climate policies
- Lack of transparency in responsibility for implementation
- Lack of collaboration between governments and other actors
- Lack of consistency on commitments to equity, gender equality and other social justice and rights commitments

1.

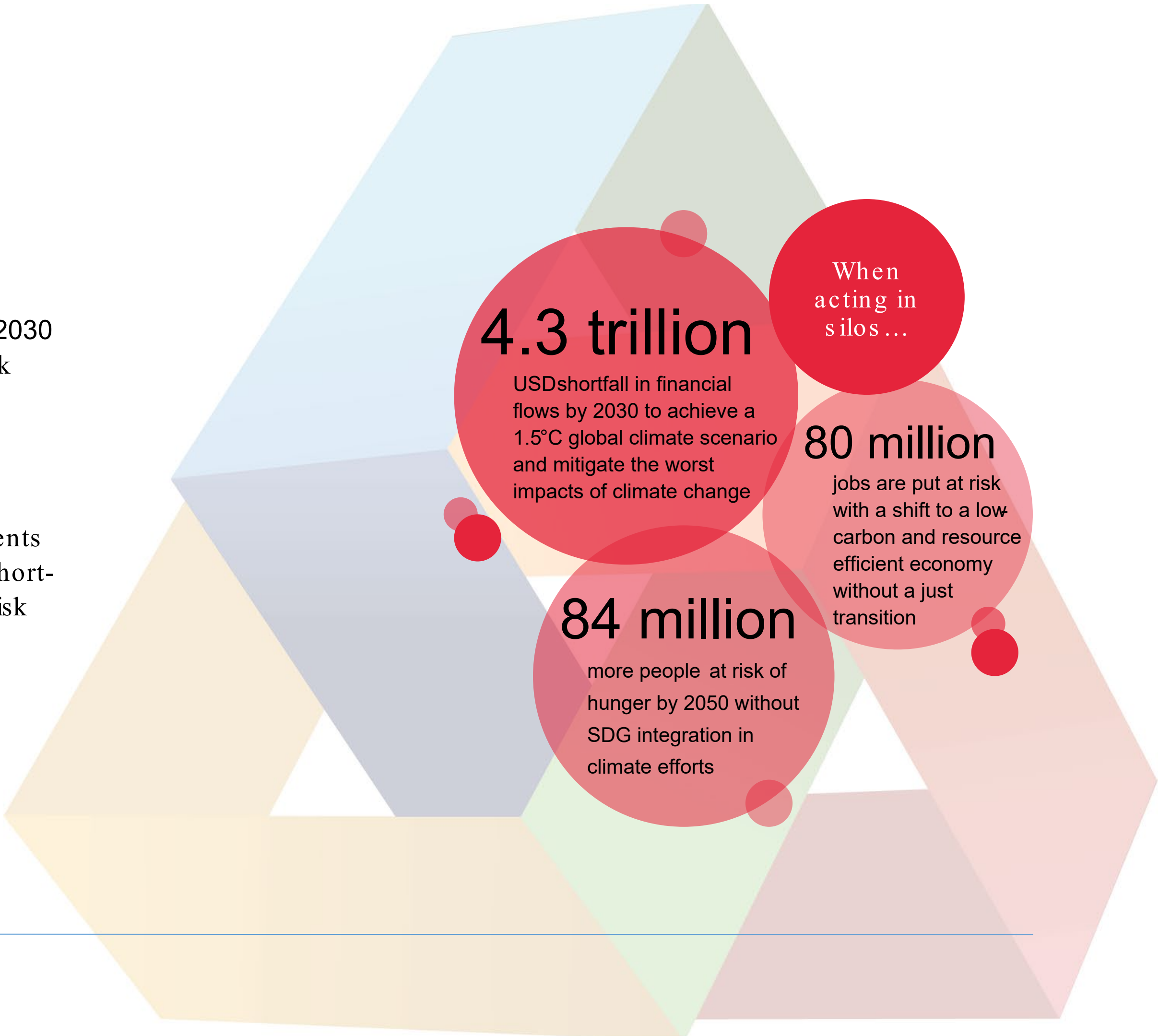
The Message

We must solve the climate emergency and sustainable development challenges together, or we will not solve them at all.

The Urgency

Need for accelerated action: Halfway to the 2030 Agenda, a mere 15% of SDG targets are on track and the climate crisis is worsening as GHG emissions continue to rise.

The impact of acting in silos: The report presents a list of potential negative impacts in terms of shortfalls in financial resources, jobs that are put at risk and people at risk of hunger



2.

The Evidence

Pursuing the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement in concert can significantly and efficiently advance both agendas.

3.

The Opportunity

Co-benefits of synergistic action significantly outweighs trade-offs. Their evaluation is key for cost-effectiveness and a just and equitable transition.

Synergistic action will help to course correct

Reduce financial gaps: Pursuing development and climate targets together reduces investment gaps.

Achieve targets faster: Integrating social dimensions enhances chances of reaching climate targets.

Facilitate long-term vision: Synergistic co-benefits balance short- and long-term gains, gaining stakeholder support.

Ensure just transition: Synergistic planning will ensure a just transition and limit the trade-offs of climate action.

43 trillion

USD can be gained in economic output by 2070 when aligning climate and SDG actions

70%

of SDG targets are attainable with climate adaptation measures focused on co-benefits

When acting in synergy...

24 million

new jobs created by 2030 through renewable energy

4x

economic gains in co-benefits through transitioning to a green economy

40%

of global population could meet WHO air quality standards with strict air pollution and GHG mitigation measure

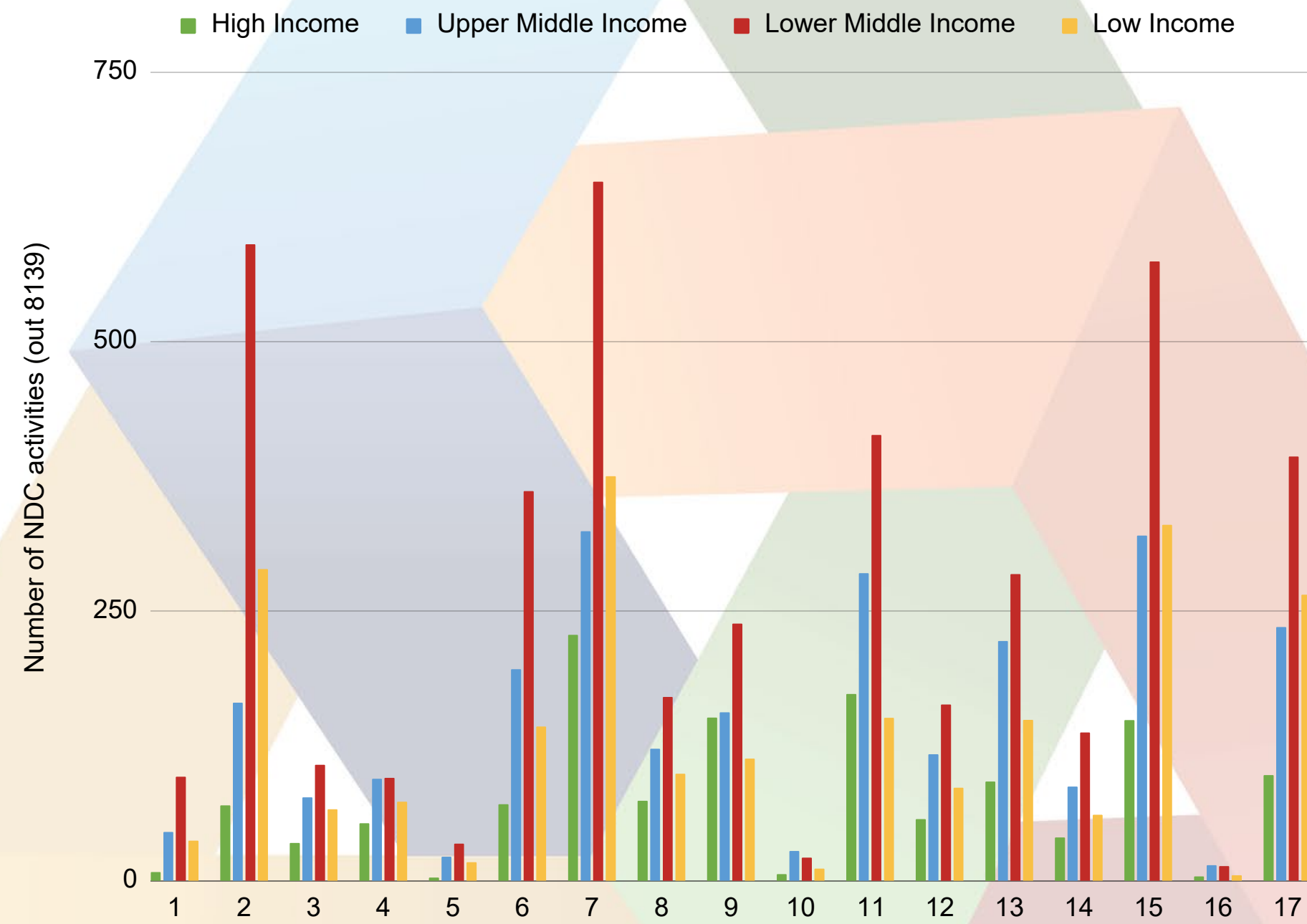
Context-specific analysis and localization of progress and impacts of climate action and SDGs

will maximize co-benefits

North and South: Low-income and lower-middle-income countries experience stronger interlinkages, as SDG progress and financing challenges outweigh climate change impacts.

Urban settings: Cities present a major opportunities for addressing climate and development challenges in synergy, as the global urban population is projected to reach 70% by 2050.

Tailored financial mechanisms: Measures like encouraging MDBs and IFIs to introduce synergy-enhancing instruments can reduce the existing investment gaps in climate and development sectors.



Number of climate activities that correspond to each of the 17 SDGs across different regions.

Source: [NDG-SDG Connections \(IDOS, SEI\)](#)

4.

Key Recommendations

Integrated climate and development action offers a vital opportunity for the course correction, addressing challenges and leveraging opportunities.

Ten Recommendations

- 01 Enhance collective resilience against current and future global crises.
- 02 Strengthen science-policy-society interaction to advance synergistic action.
- 03 Promote institutional capacity building and cross-sectoral and international and national collaboration.
- 04 Ensure policy coherence and coordination among policy makers across sectors and departments.
- 05 Develop a 'framework for action' that can help decision makers in public, private, and civil society sectors identify synergistic action for systems change.
- 06 Use the 'framework for action' and to other means to ensure a just transition.
- 07 Address the large investment gaps in the climate and development agendas to enhance the necessary synergies.
- 08 Utilize COP 28 in Dubai to initiate and accelerate synergistic action on climate and SDGs.
- 09 Prioritize the role of synergies in the work of the UN and international financial institutions, including an improved system for sharing information to help countries in their reporting responsibilities.
- 10 Treat cities, sites of major population growth and expansion of economic activities, as an opportunity for focusing on climate and development synergies.

Second Report – Substantive Themes and Focus

Synthesis Report

covering all 4 thematic areas with evidence and deep analysis, providing conclusions and recommendations to be submitted to the political processes of 2024

Cross-cutting themes

MEASURES FOR SYNERGISTIC ACTION – GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE AND DATA PLATFORM

Thematic Report

1. Background paper for online consultation
2. Online consultation

POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR SYNERGISTIC ACTION EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO POLICYMAKERS

Thematic Report

1. Background paper for online consultation
2. Online consultation

NEW FINANCIAL SYSTEM FOR SYNERGISTIC ACTION AS PART OF GLOBAL FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE

Thematic Report

1. Background paper for online consultation
2. Online consultation

Deep-dive theme

CITIES AS PLATFORMS FOR SYNERGISTIC ACTION

Thematic Report

1. Background paper for online consultation
2. Online consultation

Read the report



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For further information, please contact:
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