UNEP Overshoot Spotlight Report Special Event

Limiting Overshoot: Navigating exceedance of 1.5°C and pathways towards return

Date: Wednesday 9 September 2026
Time: 13:15 to 14:45 (time in Nairobi, EAT)
Location: Conference Room 4 in the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) or on MS Teams in this link: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/318894254736115?p=QOyJi5U595Wbe32azl
Meeting ID: 318 894 254 736 115 | Passcode: ab3rN9nv

Concept note

The UNEP report "Limiting Overshoot: Navigating exceedance of 1.5°C and pathways towards return", launched on 2 September 2026, finds that global action to cut greenhouse gas emissions has not been fast enough to avoid global warming crossing 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels in the next few years. Exceedance of 1.5°C should not be interpreted as safe or acceptable; there are no benign scenarios with global temperature rise above this level. While limiting warming to 1.5°C remains the long-term global objective under the Paris Agreement, current emissions trajectories increase the risk of surpassing this level before temperatures can be stabilized and brought back down through deep emissions reductions and enhanced carbon removal efforts.

The report identifies an 'overshoot, peak, and decline' pathway as the best remaining option to minimize the magnitude and duration of this overshoot and return to below 1.5°C. This pathway would minimize peak temperature rise through immediate and sustained cuts to greenhouse gas emissions, including methane, on the road to net-zero, and bring down temperatures through long-term net-negative emissions, with carefully governed Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) an essential part of the mix.

At the same time, an overshoot, peak and decline pathway would involve adaptation actions that reduce vulnerability to the current, expected and unexpected impacts of climate change on societies, communities and economies; although there will likely be limits to adaptation and irreversible impacts, especially if peak temperatures are not minimized.

This special event will provide Member States with an opportunity to engage directly with report authors and leading experts. It will explore what overshoot means for sustainable development, adaptation needs, climate risks, ecosystems, and vulnerable populations. The discussion will support policy dialogue ahead of key international climate and environmental processes, providing governments with insights on the choices and actions available.

Objectives

- Present the key findings and recommendations of the UNEP report "Limiting Overshoot: Navigating exceedance of 1.5°C and pathways towards return".
- Enhance understanding of the risks, impacts, and uncertainties associated with crossing 1.5°C, and the importance that the global goal remains limiting warming to 1.5°C, now approached from above.
- Explore policy and governance implications of overshoot scenarios, including implications for mitigation, adaptation, resilience, and sustainable development.
- Highlight actions for limiting the extent and duration of overshoot through accelerated emissions reductions and other response measures.
- Facilitate dialogue between Member States, scientists, and partners on priorities for international cooperation and policy action.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness among Member States of the scientific evidence, impacts, and policy implications of overshoot.
- Improved understanding of options to minimize overshoot and support a return to lower levels of warming.
- Strengthened dialogue between policymakers and the scientific community on emerging climate risks and response strategies.
- Identification of opportunities for enhanced international cooperation, ambition, and integrated action.
- Greater visibility and uptake of the findings of the UNEP report "Limiting Overshoot: Navigating exceedance of 1.5°C and pathways towards return" in upcoming policy discussions and decision-making processes.

Panel

Moderator: Keishamaza Rukikaire

Panelists:

- Mirey Atallah, Chief of the Adaptation and Resilience Branch, Climate Change Division, UNEP
- Shobha Maharaj, Independent Researcher, Munich and University of Fiji
- Martin Krause, Director, Climate Change Division, UNEP
- Geoffroy Savet, Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in Nairobi (UNON, UN-Habitat, and UNEP)
- Clive Donnley, Global Coordinator, Children and Youth Major Group to the United Nations Environment Programme

Agenda

Time	**Agenda Item**	**Speaker**
13:15-13:20	Welcome and opening	Mirey Atallah, UNEP
13:20-13:35	UNEP report: Limiting Overshoot – key findings and implications	Mirey Atallah, UNEP
13:35-13:50	Deep dive on adaptation and overshoot	Shobha Maharaj, Independent Researcher, Munich and University of Fiji
13:50-14:20	Panel discussion: implications of the Limiting Overshoot report for policy, governance, and implementation	Martin Krause, UNEP Geoffroy Savet, Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in Nairobi
14:20-14:35	Audience Q&A	
14:35-14:45	Closing: Perspective for the decision-makers of the future	Clive Donnley, Global Coordinator, Children and Youth Major Group to the United Nations Environment Programme