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# Bonn Climate Conference (SB64) Opens, with Adaptation Finance in Focus

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY



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# Bonn Climate Conference (SB64) Opens, with Adaptation Finance in Focus

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## WHY IN NEWS

The **Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB64)** opened on **June 8, 2026** and runs to June 18 at the World Conference Centre in Bonn, Germany. These mid-year UN climate negotiations set the technical agenda for the next Conference of the Parties. A central demand this year, pressed by health and climate groups, is to **triple grant-based adaptation finance to at least \$120 billion a year by 2035**, up from the \$40 billion goal set at COP26 in Glasgow.

## WHAT THE BONN CONFERENCE IS

The Bonn meetings are the **64th sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB64)**, the technical engine room of global climate diplomacy that prepares decisions for the political summit, the COP.

| BODY                                                                   | ROLE                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>SBI (Subsidiary Body for Implementation)</b>                        | Reviews how commitments are being implemented |
| <b>SBSTA (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice)</b> | Provides scientific and methodological advice |

| DETAIL   | INFORMATION                                                     |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Event    | SB64 (Bonn Climate Change Conference)                           |
| Dates    | June 8 to 18, 2026                                              |
| Venue    | World Conference Centre, Bonn (UNFCCC Secretariat headquarters) |
| Role     | Mid-year technical talks preparing for the COP                  |
| Calendar | Between COP30 (Brazil) and COP31 (Turkiye)                      |

## THE ADAPTATION FINANCE FIGHT

The headline issue is **adaptation finance**, the money to help vulnerable countries cope with climate impacts already locked in (floods, heat, sea-level rise), as distinct from **mitigation finance** to cut emissions.

| ASPECT         | DETAIL                                                      |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Existing goal  | \$40 billion a year (set at COP26, Glasgow, 2021)           |
| Demand at Bonn | Triple to at least \$120 billion a year by 2035             |
| Form preferred | Public, grant-based (not loans that add to debt)            |
| The gap        | The UNEP Adaptation Gap Report shows finance far below need |

Developing countries, including India, argue that adaptation finance is chronically short of what is required, that it should be **grant-based rather than loan-based** to avoid worsening debt, and that developed countries must honour their obligations under the principle of **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)**.

## THE WIDER AGENDA

Other live issues at SB64 include:

- **Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA):** developing measurable indicators to track adaptation progress.
- **Just Transition Work Programme:** ensuring the shift away from fossil fuels is fair to workers and communities.
- **NDC implementation:** turning national climate pledges into action.
- **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG):** follow-up on the post-2025 climate-finance goal.

## UPSC RELEVANCE

### Prelims

- **SB64** (Bonn Climate Conference): June 8 to 18, 2026; venue Bonn, UNFCCC headquarters
- Subsidiary Bodies: **SBI** (Implementation) and **SBSTA** (Scientific and Technological Advice)
- Adaptation finance demand: triple to **\$120 billion a year by 2035** (from the \$40 billion COP26 goal)
- Between **COP30 (Brazil)** and **COP31 (Turkiye)**

- Principle: **CBDR-RC**; the **UNEP Adaptation Gap Report** tracks shortfalls

## Mains Angles

- 1 **GS3 Climate Finance:** Examine the adequacy of global adaptation finance and India's case for grant-based finance under CBDR-RC.
- 2 **GS3 Climate Governance:** Discuss the role of the Bonn Subsidiary Body sessions in the UNFCCC process.
- 3 **GS2 International Negotiations:** Analyse the North-South divide in climate finance negotiations.

## FACTS CORNER

| FACT                     | DETAIL                                     |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Event                    | Bonn Climate Conference (SB64)             |
| Dates                    | June 8 to 18, 2026                         |
| Venue                    | Bonn, Germany (UNFCCC headquarters)        |
| Subsidiary Bodies        | SBI + SBSTA                                |
| Existing adaptation goal | \$40 billion a year (COP26, Glasgow)       |
| Demand                   | \$120 billion a year by 2035 (grant-based) |
| Principle                | CBDR-RC                                    |
| Calendar position        | Between COP30 (Brazil) and COP31 (Turkiye) |
| Tracking report          | UNEP Adaptation Gap Report                 |

Sources: UNFCCC, Down To Earth, The Hindu

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