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## Report on Climate Indicators & Sustainable Development: WMO

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### Why in News

Recently, the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** has published a new report on **Climate Indicators and Sustainable Development: Demonstrating the Interconnections**.

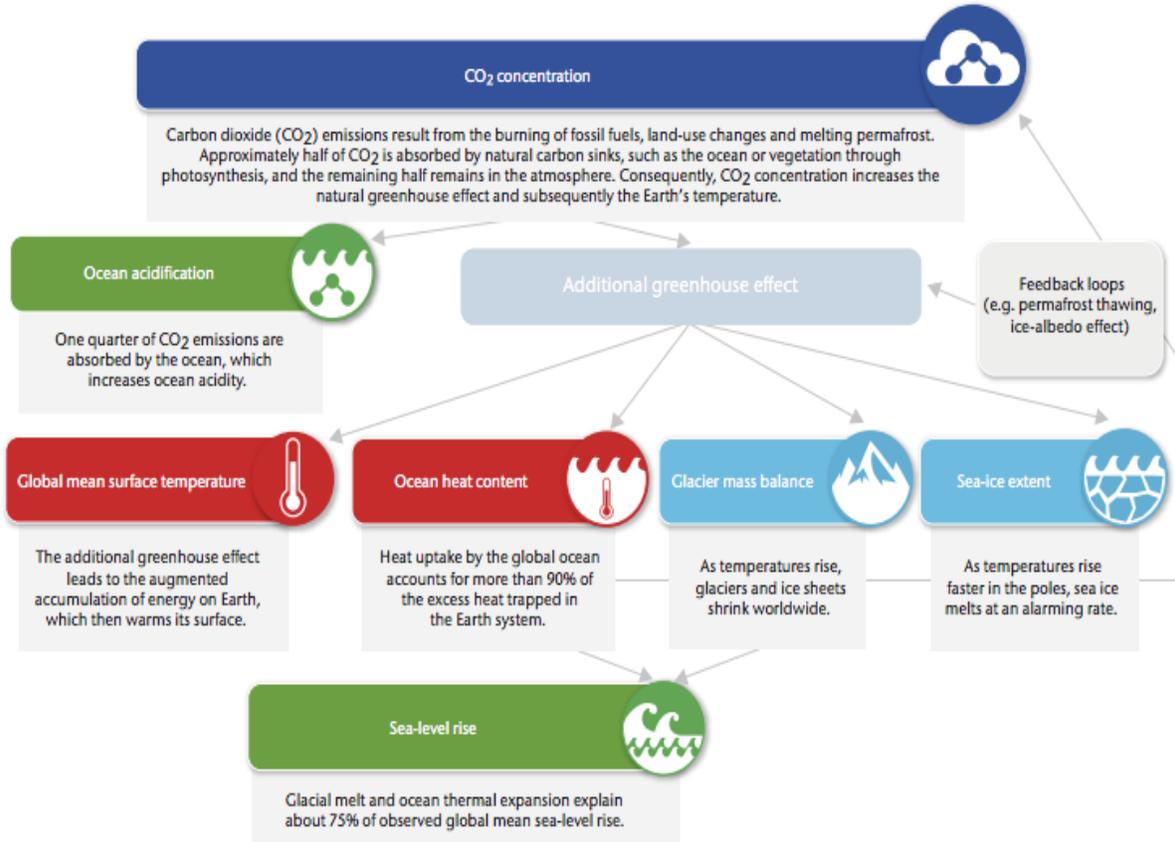
- WMO studied seven climate indicators — carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentration, temperature, ocean acidification and heat, sea ice extent, glacier melt and sea-level rise.
- Its release coincides with the **United Nations General Assembly** annual session and the opening in September 2021 of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** Action Zone, which is dedicated to accelerating action on the SDGs.



### Key Points

- **Aim:**
  - To **contribute to the sustainable development agenda** and to inspire leaders to take bolder climate action.
- **Importance:**
  - In the face of ongoing **climate change**, poverty, inequality and environmental degradation, **understanding the connections between climate and international development** is a matter of urgency.
  - Increasing temperatures will result in **global and regional changes, leading to shifts in rainfall patterns and agricultural seasons**. The intensification of **El Niño** events is also generating more droughts and floods.
- **Rising CO<sub>2</sub> Concentration:**
  - The rising concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> **will impact all of the 17 United Nations-mandated SDGs**.
  - Rising CO<sub>2</sub> concentration **due to human activities** is a key driver of global climate change.
- **Impact on SDGs:**
  - Rising CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and increasing global temperatures, if left unchecked, would **negatively impact efforts to combat climate change** under the SDG 13.
    - This, in turn, would pose a **significant threat to the achievement of the 16 SDGs other than SDG 13, by 2030**.
  - This would happen because uncontrolled rising CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would be **indirectly responsible for risks related to the remaining six climate indicators, namely** temperature, ocean acidification and heat, sea ice extent, glacier melt and sea-level rise.
  - For instance, rising concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere will **lead to reductions in nutrient content, affecting food security** or the SDG indicator 2.1.2.
    - This would affect the **global goal on tackling poverty, SDG 1**, as well.
  - Rising CO<sub>2</sub> in water would cause **ocean acidification**, directly affecting SDG indicator 14.3.1 which addresses marine acidity.
  - Both food insecurity and loss of livelihood may drive conflicts related to resource management, thus **threatening regional peace and stability (SDG 16.1)**.
  - Extreme events attributed to rising temperature affect rainfall patterns and groundwater availability, which leads to a **higher risk of water scarcity, directly affecting SDG 6** on access to water and specially the targets.
- **Suggestions:**
  - To mitigate climate risks, the WMO recommended to work on:
    - **Improved education** (SDG 4)
    - **Global partnerships** (SDG 17)
    - **Sustainable consumption** (SDG 12)

## Interconnections between the WMO climate indicators



**Source: DTE**