



#Youth4Climate Live Series

Session Title: Driving Sustainable Recovery

Date: July 24, 2020

Time: 10 am EST

Background

Climate change and COVID-19 are two very different challenges, but they do have some key aspects in common. Both are global - they do not respect national boundaries - and require strong coordination and cooperation. In responding to these twin crises, countries should take into account youth perspectives and strive to ensure a healthy planet for future generations by achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and safeguarding biodiversity.

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development both represent universally approved policy visions. They are essential frameworks that can increase policy coherence among countries and sectors, and they can improve our effectiveness in addressing the environmental, sustainable development, and public health challenges we face.

2020 is supposed to be a critical year for climate action. Revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS) are both due to the UNFCCC under the Paris Agreement. Only few countries have submitted updated climate targets thus far. 2020 also marks the decade of action to deliver the SDGs by 2030 and is an opportunity to find ways to accelerate their implementation.

Now, as countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic ripple effects, they can – and should – re-build with their climate and sustainable development commitments in mind. This notion of recovering back better was outlined by the UN Secretary-General in his public address to the global community where he identified 6 priority actions that UN Member States can take, including delivering green jobs, ending subsidies for fossil fuels, pricing carbon, and accounting for climate-related risks and opportunities in the global financial system. The European Commission is taking steps in the right direction through its recovery efforts to date, including by providing recovery funding to accelerate countries' transitions toward climate neutrality.

Recovery approaches everywhere must reinforce ongoing climate-related efforts, including countries' NDCs, national development strategies, master plans, and national adaptation plans. Key areas of focus could include clean energy deployment, transport sustainability, and nature-based solutions, which are all win-win areas for stimulus investments.





The Event

The session is part of the *Youth4Climate Virtual Event Series*, an exclusive programme of dynamic and inspiring webinars with empowering content, dedicated to young people and hosted by the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, in collaboration with Connect4Climate - World Bank Group and the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, as part of the initiatives organized in the run-up to the 2021 pre-COP26 in Milan, Italy and COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland.

The webinar is intended to highlight experiences, collect ideas, and acknowledge the concerns young people, especially as they relate to aligning a sustainable recovery with climate action (including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, building resilience, and enhancing nature-based solutions). It will be hosted on an interactive and accessible platform that allows for live translations, screen video content, and the incorporation of audience-generated questions.

Driving Sustainable Recovery will build on a June 5 World Environment Day event on a similar theme, hosted by the Office of the Secretary-General's Youth Envoy and other partners. During this June 5 event, youth from around the world shared with UN Member States their priorities for a green recovery. *Driving Sustainable Recovery* is an opportunity to reflect on these priorities before discussing the integration of youth priorities into NDCs and other climate-related plans

Session Organization

The webinar will feature the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, **Achim Steiner**, and First Vice President of the European Commission, **Franz Timmermans**. Administrator Steiner will highlight his agency's commitment to supporting at least 100 countries in enhancing their NDCs by 2020 and discuss the opportunities that recovery packages offer to accelerate implementation of the Paris Agreement. EU VP Timmermans will present the key elements of the recently launched EU Recovery Fund to ensure that the European upcoming recovery is sustainable, inclusive, and fair and will emphasize its relevance for the next generation.

Youth speakers will be asked to address one of the following areas:

- use of renewable energy sources
- sustainable mobility
- protecting local ecosystems and biodiversity

By highlighting one or more of the following aspects:

- Lessons learned: how the chosen area has been affected by external shocks, like COVID-19, but also natural disasters and climate change impacts;
- New proposals: how the topic can be better addressed in their Country's NDCs and reflected in the stimulus package for a better recovery;
- Youth mobilisation: how young people are mobilising and connecting to promote actions in one or all the sectors.



#YOUTH 4CLIMATE LIVE SERIES

DRIVING MOMENTUM TOWARDS PRE-COP AND COP26



Speakers

Moderators

- Salina Abraham
- Ahmed Badr

High-Level Speakers

- Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme
- Franz Timmermans, First Vice President, European Commission

Youth Speakers

- Axell Sutton, Co-Chairman at Latin American Student Energy Summit 2021
- Seble Samuel, Co-Founder of Menged Le Sew
- Jhannel C. Tomlinson, Caribbean Climate Activist and Ph.D. candidate

Run of Show

Moderators Salina Abraham and Ahmed Badr will open the event and guide the conversation between the live guests while encouraging interaction with the young audience. Introductory remarks from high-level speakers will spark a dynamic discussion between three representatives of the global youth climate movement about their perspectives on sustainable recovery.

10:00 am	Salina & Ahmed	Welcome and introductions by the moderators
10:10 am	Timmermans	Remarks
10:20 am	Steiner	Remarks
10:30 am	Youth Speakers	Youth speakers introduce themselves and their work
10:47 am	All Speakers	Interactive Q&A, including dialogue between the speakers and questions from the audience, submitted via chat
10:55 am	Salina & Ahmed	Closing remarks, including interactive feature (i.e. poll, game) and announcement of next event

