



## Youth4Climate Live Series Session Title: Driving Adaptation & Resilience

Date: January 22, 2021

Time: 16:30-17:30 CET (10:30-11:30 am EST)

### Background

With more frequent and intense extreme events and disasters, climate change is one of the main factors, which could reverse the progress made in development and pushing more people into poverty, especially among those living in the most marginalised and vulnerable circumstances. As the largest generation to live on our planet, young people will be disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change. Young people are empowering themselves and becoming agents of change – they can play a major role in enabling a transformation towards a sustainable and resilient world. They are creating partnerships, involved in policymaking, demanding action, as well as offering solutions. Young people are experts on the issues that affect their lives. Engaging with them is natural and necessary as it only improves our efforts to build resilience and adapt to climate change. It is time for the world to recognise young people as equal partners in safeguarding the earth for all generations.<sup>1</sup>

### 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 Driving Adaptation & Resilience will focus on enhancing the understanding of the role that Youth can play as agents of change in accelerating adaptation and resilience. Youth involvement in climate adaptation is critical to drive large scale adaptation efforts. Considering current and future risk, as well as the rising interactions between climate change and increasing vulnerable populations, young people are eager to support and initiate adaptation actions globally in order to secure a safer future. These efforts span across different areas, including lobbying and influencing political priorities, advocacy, capacity building, mobilizing, and establishing or working in social enterprises. It has been argued for some time that “the younger generation may be at the forefront of those who have adapted to the newer forms of political expression, mobilization and

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<sup>1</sup> “Adapt for our future: Youth and Climate Change Adaptation”.

Amponsem J., D. Doshi, A. I. Salazar Toledo, L. Schudel & S. Delali-Kemeh. 2019. “Adapt for our Future: Youth and Climate Change Adaptation” Rotterdam and Washington, DC. Available online at [www.gca.org](http://www.gca.org)



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engagement. With the need for increased political commitments towards climate adaptation, youth involvement in newer forms of political mobilization and engagement is essential to drive action. Despite their lack of a voice during decision making processes, young people are the most important workforce for the implementation of climate adaptation activities.

In many sectors that need adaptation efforts, young people are actively engaged in adaptation action, for example, through entrepreneurship in the energy and agricultural sectors in urban and rural areas across the globe. In many developing countries, adaptation efforts in local communities are executed by young people in consultation with local government representatives and local traditional leaders. This has also been observed in low, middle and high income countries, where the youth are implementing large scale afforestation projects and other agroforestry initiatives, local weather stations for improved agriculture, drainage constructions and land mapping aimed at reducing the frequency and impacts of floods (and subsequent droughts), while providing livelihood options for their peers. Hence, young people are exposed to the practice, and challenges associated with anticipatory actions. This demonstrates the need for increased integration of youth action at the national and regional levels for replication and knowledge exchange where possible.

Global observing systems, including those from space, play an important role in helping to estimate the threats posed by climate change. Remote sensing can be used for developing early warning and forecasting systems to prepare for, reduce and manage the risk of disasters (i.e., preparing better prediction of cyclone and flood tracks, drought events, fire occurrence), as well as in post-disaster damage detection, and in the emergency response.

## Session Organization

The webinar will feature the participation of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, **Inger Andersen**, and the astronaut from European Space Agency, **Jean-François Clervoy**.

The session will cover ways how strengthen and champion youth inclusion in adaptation action,

- Overcome the barriers that young people still face in climate change adaptation action. These barriers may be institutional, structural, or financial and stem primarily from a deficit in young people's capacity and knowledge.
- Provide opportunities for young people to engage in adaptation efforts and which enablers would be more critical to promote to enhance these opportunities.



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Youth speakers will be asked to provide their inputs on the above topics, including by:

- Providing their views on how adaptation and resilience projects and activities they have been involved into and how those helped accelerating adaptation and resilience.
- Sharing their own experience in driving youth led adaptation initiatives and ideas on how to enhance the dialogue on climate change with the international community.

## High Level Speakers

- **Inger Andersen**, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme
- **Jean-François Clervoy**, astronaut, European Space Agency.

## Youth Speakers

- **Joshua Amponsem** (Ghana), is an environmental and climate activist. He is an Adaptation Fellow at the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) and the founder of Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO). Joshua focuses on the role of youth in Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Resilience Building. He is the lead author of the first-ever background paper on youth and climate change adaptation which provides a pathway for youth engagement in global adaptation efforts. In Ghana, he is leading the Water for Adaptation and Sustainable Communities Project – where he builds the capacity of youth to support community resilience through ecosystem-based adaptation measures, sustainable agriculture practices, circular economy, and disaster risk reduction.
- **Satrio Wicaksono** (Indonesia) won United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) Space4Youth Competition in 2020. He is PhD scientist-environmentalist, working as Forest and Land Use Governance Expert at the EU REDD Facility. Satrio was also developing and managing WRI Indonesia's Sustainable Ocean Initiative portfolio.
- **Joyce Najm Mendez** (Brazil), is a social entrepreneur working on the water-energy-food nexus and transboundary cooperation. She is a Young Climate Ambassador and Board Member of the Center for United Nations Constitutional Research (CUNCR), as well as a MSc student in Sustainability and Adaptation Planning at the Centre of Alternative Technologies UK. Joyce was one of the 30 Young people selected by the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth to be part of the Abu Dhabi Climate Action Meeting, supporting the organization of the first-ever United Nations Youth Climate Summit in 2019. She has also been invited to join the group of leaders - 'Women Rise for All' - a global effort to save lives and protect livelihoods, urging leaders worldwide to address the humanitarian crisis of the pandemic, to support the United Nations Secretary-General's call for solidarity and action in response to the impacts of COVID-19. (TBC)





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## Moderators

- Salina Abraham
- Ahmed Badr

## Proposed 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 the high-level speakers will spark a dynamic discussion between three representatives of the global youth-led and youth-focused movements about their perspectives on how to foster youth action and engagement.

10:00 am	Salina & Ahmed	Welcome and introductions by the moderators
10:05 am		Introductory video message
10:10 am	High-Level Speakers	Opening remarks
10:20 am	Youth Speakers	Youth speakers each have a few minutes to introduce themselves, their work, and deliver remarks
10:30 am	All Speakers	Interactive Q&A, including dialogue between the speakers and questions from the audience, submitted via chat
10:50 am	Salina & Ahmed	Closing remarks, including interactive feature (i.e., poll, game, etc.), and announcement of next event

