



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 February 2017

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 8 February regarding SDG Action Events that will be convened during the 71st session, I have the honour to share herewith details on the High-Level Meeting entitled “Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Agenda”, which I am organizing in collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, on 23 March 2017 at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

The meeting is part of the universal push to strengthen momentum around the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. It aims to invigorate political momentum on Climate Change and to reinforce synergies between climate action and delivering on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. It will also aim to urgently ramp up ambition and implementation related to the 2020 targets within the development agenda and the action required to keep the global average temperature rise well below two degrees.

A provisional abbreviated programme is attached. For additional information, please contact Senior Advisors, Ms. Tracy Raczek (raczek@un.org) or Ms. Sonja Niehoff (niehoff@un.org). I encourage participation at the highest possible levels.

I also wish to draw your attention to an informal briefing that I will convene on Monday 20 February 2017, at 3pm in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, to discuss the abovementioned SDG Action Events and my recent SDG-related official travels.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson', written in a cursive style.

Peter Thomson

All Permanent Representative and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

High-Level SDG Action Event
Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Agenda
23 March 2017, United Nations Headquarters

Office of the President of the 71st UN General Assembly

Concept & Provisional Abbreviated Programme

CONCEPT: The President of the 71st UN General Assembly, Mr. Peter Thomson, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Ms. Patricia Espinosa, will convene Member States, the UN System, and stakeholders on 23 March in a High Level Meeting at United Nations Headquarters to advance the following objectives on climate change and sustainable development:

- (1) Invigorate political momentum on climate change, highlighting its deep linkage to the Sustainable Development Agenda. Emphasis will be placed on concrete solutions on climate and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that yield cross-cutting dividends, especially regarding land-use, energy and the ocean;
- (2) Increase common understanding among key actors including Member States, the UN system and non-state stakeholders regarding the urgent need to ramp up ambition and implementation, especially given upcoming 2020 targets and milestones for both climate and SDGs.

PROVISIONAL ABBREVIATED PROGRAMME

Opening	
<i>Room: Trusteeship Council Chamber</i>	
10:00am – 10:30am	<p><i>Opening Remarks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly - H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations (tbc) - Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
Plenary: Stocktaking on Climate	
<i>Paris Agreement ratification; Science; Gaps & Opportunities</i>	
<i>Room: Trusteeship Council Chamber</i>	
10:30am – 11:45am	<p>This ‘stock-taking’ panel and ensuing dialogue will discuss the status of climate science and of efforts to address it, including ratification and implication of the Paris Agreement as well as climate actions by all stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Format:</u> Moderated dialogue with multi-stakeholder panellists.</p>

11:45am – 1:00pm	Statements from High Level Member State representatives.		
	Plenary (cont.) <i>Extended High Level Plenary of morning Stocktaking on Climate</i> <i>Room: Trusteeship Council Chamber</i>	Session I: Implementing Solutions <i>Scaling up implementation of the Paris Agreement and SDGs</i> <i>Room: Conference Room 8</i>	Session II: 2020 as Opportunity <i>Achieving the 2020 SDG targets and NDC ambitions</i> <i>Room: Conference Room 9</i>
3:00pm – 5:30pm	<p>This ‘stock-taking’ plenary will enable Governments and stakeholders to make statements from the floor on the status of climate science and of efforts to address it, including ratification and implication of the Paris Agreement as well as climate actions by all stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Format:</u> Chaired plenary</p>	<p>This dialogue will explore the deeply cross-cutting dimensions of climate and the sustainable development goals and provide concrete examples where implementing solutions with this multi-sectoral approach has enhanced social, economic and environmental dividends, in particular for land-use, energy, and the ocean.</p> <p><u>Format:</u> Moderated dialogue with multi-stakeholder panellists, followed by and remarks from the floor by additional Governments and stakeholders.</p>	<p>This dialogue will explore means to enhance global attention to and support of climate action and the SDGs, in particular as it relates to land-use, energy, and the ocean, and their human dimensions given the pressing 2020 targets.</p> <p><u>Format:</u> Moderated dialogue with multi-stakeholder panellists, followed by and remarks from the floor by additional Governments and stakeholders.</p>
Wrap Up: The Way Forward <i>Room: Trusteeship Council Chamber</i>			
5:30pm – 5:45pm	<p>Moderator will discuss the outcomes of the morning and afternoon sessions with the respective Session Facilitators and Chair of Plenary.</p> <p><u>Format:</u> Moderated panel discussion</p>		
Closing <i>Room: Trusteeship Council Chamber</i>			
5:45pm – 6:00pm	<p><i>Closing Remarks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly - Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 		