

Informal High-Level Event on promoting the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement on climate change

New York, 22 April 2016
2:30-3:15 p.m.
Conference Room 4

On 12 December 2015, the international community agreed unanimously to keep global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and, given the grave risks, to strive to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. On 22 April, during the High-Level Signing Ceremony for the Paris Agreement, world leaders will further signal their commitment and political will to the transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient economies by taking the first important step on the path towards bringing the Paris Agreement into force.

In the lead-up to the Signing Ceremony, many countries have announced their intention to ratify the Paris Agreement either on 22 April or at some point during 2016. These and many other countries have signaled their support for the Paris Agreement's early entry into force and its prompt implementation.

This Informal High-Level Event will celebrate the leadership of those countries who are in a position to deposit their instruments of ratification during the Signing Ceremony, and provide an opportunity for other countries in attendance to commit to taking the steps necessary to join as soon as possible, with a view to joining in 2016. Countries that have already joined or that will make this commitment will be invited to participate in a photo opportunity at the beginning of the event and to reflect their commitment in the high-level statement. This will build further political momentum for the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement and its prompt implementation.

This Informal High-Level Event will be co-convened by:

- H.E. Ms. Hilda Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
- H.E. Mr. Tommy Remengesau, President of the Republic of Palau
- H.E. Mr. Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada
- H.E. Mr. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji
- H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Diop, Foreign Minister of Mali
- H.E. Ms. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada
- H.E. Mr. Thoriq Ibrahim, Minister of Environment & Energy of the Republic of the Maldives
- H.E. Mr. Vidar Helgesen, Minister of Climate and the Environment of Norway

Proposed Agenda

2:35 – 2:40 p.m.	Opening of the Informal High-Level Event with Remarks by H.E. Mr. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji <i>The Prime Minister will welcome participants, state the objective of the event, and welcome the UN Secretary-General to make his remarks.</i>
2:40 – 2:42 p.m.	Remarks by the UN Secretary-General, H. E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon <i>The Secretary-General will make short remarks congratulating countries who have deposited their instrument of ratification, welcoming those who have indicated that they intend to do so, and will highlight the importance of maintaining momentum at the highest political level to ensure early entry into force and prompt implementation of the Paris Agreement.</i>
2:42 – 2:50 p.m.	Remarks by co-conveners • H.E. Ms. Hilda Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands • H.E. Mr. Tommy Remengesau, President of the Republic of Palau • H.E. Mr. Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada
2:50 – 3:10 p.m.	Tour de table: Opportunity for countries to announce their commitment to take the domestic steps necessary to join the Paris Agreement as soon as possible, with a view to joining in 2016 • H.E. John Kerry, Secretary of State of the United States • H.E. Ségolène Royal, Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy of France • <i>Additional countries [Note: Delegations wishing to intervene should inform conference services upon entering the room]</i> <i>It is requested that statements are kept very brief and focused on timelines for joining the Agreement, in order to accommodate all who wish to make announcements.</i>
3:10 – 3:15	Closing • H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Diop, Foreign Minister of Mali • H.E. Ms. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada • H.E. Mr. Thoriq Ibrahim, Minister of Environment & Energy of the Republic of the Maldives • H.E. Mr. Vidar Helgesen, Minister of Climate and the Environment of Norway